Judd on Patterns
Bowers-Borckardt on Silver Dollars
Others

Regardless of which numbering system you settle upon, I will always hold you and your work in the highest esteem. You are a monster researcher.

Oily Bro

John Dannreuther wrote:

> Oily bro,
>
> Eric Newman has suggested, as you have, changing the BD numbering system.....
>
> He has made several suggestions.....some seem too complicated, but one idea, I really like.
>
> He suggested Q, H, and E before the BD numbers.....example
>
> BD-Q1 would differentiate the first quarter eagle from BD-H1 and BD-E1, the first half eagle and eagle.
>
> Another idea, which I am not as crazy about, is to use this system with the reverse die.
>
> Example:
>
> for quarter eagles:
>
> BD-1 becomes BD-Q1A
> BD-2 becomes BD-Q2A
> BD-3 becomes BD-Q3B
> etc.
>
> Whatcha think?
>
> Oily (and tired) bro
>
> John Dannreuther
> [redacted]
> Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

Subj: **RE: That 1794 Dollar, etc.**
Date: 03/19/2004 6:07:05 PM Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric,

Eleven 1794 dollars! Wow! Col. Green had so much that I'm sure you'd be overwhelmed today!

When I start my research this fall for my writing, I would love to come up and spend a couple of days going thru the Johnson invoices.
I am sure some pedigrees that are incomplete and/or inaccurate could be straightened out by some of his invoices. They are a "treasure trove" of information that I am so glad that you have preserved.

As I noted in my conversation to you, the Boyd inventory may also shed some light on the Neil/Carter 1794 dollar.

Also, Saul Teichman (uspatterns.com) has asked me about the 1913 Type 2 nickel in Bronze (copper?) that was in the holder with the 5 1913 Liberty Head nickels.
He seems to think that it might be a Mint error, but I told him it looked like a Die Trial to me. Do you know? Have you ever had it tested for metallic content? I know it was with the other 7 coins when you got the set. (5 1913 nickels, plus the regular 1913 Type 1 that I examined one time at your bank, and the no initial 1913 pattern that you indicated that B.G. Johnson sold before you got the holder)

Will get you a softcover book when I receive them.

Best regards,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 3/19/2004 12:22:31 PM
Subject: That 1794 Dollar, etc.

Dear JD:
I located the original handwritten notations I made in New York before I bought the Green Estate Silver Dollars. There were eleven 1794s and one of them was recorded as uncirculated. It is possible that I did not withdraw that one because I decided that I could use a less valuable example and allocate my withdrawal values for other items. I could not afford to withdraw such pieces as the Gobrecht dollars (all were patterns in my mind) and the 1804 restrike and the 1801, 1802 and 1803 proofs (all fakes in my mind). I had so many choices to make and was inexperienced. I was dazzled by the quantities of coins and had no interest in future value or finest examples known. This puts me in a position where I have to go through all of the invoices of Johnson in order to find the party to whom the item was sold and how Johnson described it in the invoice. That will be a work out. You can

come help if you wish as the invoices cover Armin Brand material, Johnson material, and Green material.
Someone sent me the New York Times article mentioning your name and the 1794 dollar as I was unaware of the matter when you telephoned me. That call was a discussion between us that was truly fascinating.
Your hard cover book arrived and I thank you for the kind inscription, I am glad I made you get your name on the cover.
The revisions in the book are most helpful and attractive.
Remember to send a soft cover one as I am a bibliophile as well as a numismanut.
Keep on thriving. Eric

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 03/28/2004 1:47:56 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
In your last message you indicated you would like to come to St. Louis sometime to look over the Johnson invoices. I have them for about ten years and they are grouped by years. You are of course welcome to do that.
However if the uncirculated 1794 dollar matter is important I can try to find the Johnson invoice because I know when the Green dollars came in and Johnson offered them for sale rather promptly. Please tell me how urgent the matter really is.

As to the request of Saul Teichman to you about the 1913 Nickel Type II in copper composition which piece was in the original holder of the 1913 Liberty Head nickels it has been tested twice for composition and is definitely a trial piece. not an error. I can dig all of this detail out of my files but hope my word is good enough.
Eric

Subj: **RE: (no subject)**
Date: 03/29/2004 12:01:54 PM Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Of course, the 1794 info is important, but I really am interested in pedigrees on all rartities that may be gleaned from the Johnson invoices. So, I would like to come up sometime and look them over. Thanks.

Also, will email Saul and give him the info on the 1913. His site, uspatterns.com is the "pattern headquarters" for research into the origin, composition, pedigree, etc. for these items.

Thanks,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 3/28/2004 1:48:01 PM
Subject: (no subject)

Dear JD:
In your last message you indicated you would like to come to St. Louis sometime to look over the Johnson invoices. I have them for about ten years and they are grouped by years. You are of course welcome to do that. However if the uncirculated 1794 dollar matter is important I can try to find the Johnson invoice because I know when the Green dollars came in and Johnson offered them for sale rather promptly. Please tell me how urgent the matter really is.

As to the request of Saul Teichman to you about the 1913 Nickel Type II in copper composition which piece was in the original holder of the 1913 Liberty Head nickels it has been tested twice for composition and is definitely a trial piece. not an error. I can dig all of this detail out of my files but hope my word is good enough.
Eric

Subj: **1794 dollar research**
Date: 04/01/2004 5:42:28 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Due to your stimulation I could not wait to plough through the mound of Johnson's invoices for 1943 to see what happened to the eleven Colonel Green 1794 dollars. I was exhausted and successful and I have only finished 2/3rds of the year. My current findings are as follows:

1/2/43 Mehl 1794 Very fine with the eagle and letters on the reverse especially sharp. Cost Green $600.00 .....350.00

About fine 175.00

Very good, polished. Mr. Stoddard's coin 125.00

The last two were returned by Mehl.

1/27/43 Elder. 1794. The polished coin that Mr. Stoddard owned
- Cost him before polishing $375.00 .....125.00

2/4/43 Elder. 1794. Very good, strong. Very strong date.. 150.00

4/29/43 Kosoff 1794 Very fine for coin. 265.00

4/29/43 James Kelly 1794 Ex. fine, very sharp. The rev. inscription being exceptionally well struck 500.00

5/3/43 R.H.Green (Chicago) 1794 Fine for coin 270.00
1794. Extremely fine. Very sharp. 625.00

I have only finished up to the letter N. How am I doing?

Stacks are advertising earlier books you have written and I want to know what you have written as I do not have any except the OFFICIAL GRADING GUIDE (both editions) which you sent me.

I noticed by accident a 1794 uncirculated dollar as Lot 1678 in Kosoff's August 13, 1958 auction but presume you know all about that one as it belonged to Boyd and was said to be better than the one sold in 1950 in Chicago for $8,000.

Thanks for keeping me out of trouble. Eric

Subj: **Re: 1794 dollar research**
Date: 04/02/2004 10:51:45 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
You are right that the 1794 dollar sold in the 1958 Kosoff Sale was compared to one sold in the Chicago 1956 Sale, not a 1950 sale as I said. Kosoff made enough errors in that catalog and this was my error as I thought the 6 was a 0 because I was in a hurry.
These Johnson invoices are a treasure trove as you said. I am amazed at the quantity of American and foreign coins and paper money he was able to handle from many sources to his customers at the same time. What I passed up because I did not have the money to buy them makes me look like an MS 60 Grade idiot. However I am fortunate to have obtained what I did.
I am glad you are happy with my work so far and look forward to your shock when you look at what is in our records.
Did I ever give you a copy of my book on American Scales and Counterfeit Detectors? Eric

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 04/02/2004 7:27:11 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
If you just sent me a message this afternoon please send it again as I think I wiped it out.
I finished Johnson's 1943 invoices and found:
7/8/43 Stacks 1794 Strongly struck up. Fine.... 375.00
(It seems to have been returned because it was not marked paid as were many items on the invoice. It is possible that this may be the one I took.)

It was interesting to find invoices to George Walton among which was one sending him an 1884 and an 1885 trade dollar proof. He returned them.

The Green Estate Dollars were not received until mid-December 1942 and I have not checked December 1942 invoices because they are ~~not~~ assorted alphabetically first and by date next. I have not looked at 1944 either.
Eric

Subj: **RE: 1794 dollar research**
Date: 04/02/2004 10:10:06 AM Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric,

You are amazing. This is great stuff. I knew that the Johnson invoices were a treasure trove of info, but I guess even I have underestimated the amount of info they contain.

I am not sure to which coin Kosoff is referring, as I have the Boyd-Cardinal coin selling in June, 1950 in a private transaction for $1,595. There was the August, 1956 sale of the so-called "Austian specimen" for $8,000, so maybe 1950 is a typo for 1956. Common for auction cats, of course, which are assembled like cars! - on an assembly line and in a hurry!!!

The "Austrian specimen" was in a PCGS AU55 holder, but now is NGC MS60 - guess it is one of those coins that "got better with age".....
This coin showed up in America after being bought in Europe by Paul Wittlin and was Lot 1509 of the James Kelly 1956 ANA sale. It may have not be from Austria, as the current pedigree notes that it possibly is from the Bibliotheque Nationale or the Paris Mint Collection. Wittlin, I'm sure, didn't want his source to be known, but I know he had a lot of contacts in France, so the Austria connection may have been a ruse!

Boyd owned several 1794's including the 1958 Numismatic Gallery ANA sale coin Lot 1678 to which you refer. That coin later was owned by Lelan Rogers and was sold in the Numisma '95 sale as lot 1315. It supposedly came from Col. Green and has been graded MS66 by both PCGS and NGC, so it is a nice uncirculated coin. Perhaps, this is the coin you were offered. It also was in WGC in 1945 as Lot 1.

Maybe the 1950 sale that Kosoff referred to is another Boyd coin (from Mehl sometime in the 1930s, per my info) that was sold privately by Kosoff at the time of the WGC sale. That coin was sold to a B.M. Eubanks from Stack's FPL No. 47 in 1950.

There is much confusion, as you can see, about 1794 dollars, as misinformation became fact and facts were repeated until they became gospel!

Your research is "actual" transactions, so maybe it will shed some light on certain examples. Thanks, in advance.

Keep it going....

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 4/1/2004 5:42:31 PM
Subject: 1794 dollar research

Dear JD:
Due to your stimulation I could not wait to plough through the mound of

Johnson's invoices for 1943 to see what happened to the eleven Colonel Green 1794 dollars. I was exhausted and successful and I have only finished 2/3rds of the year. My current findings are as follows:

1/2/43 Mehl 1794 Very fine with the eagle and letters on the reverse especially sharp. Cost Green $600.00 .....350.00

About fine 175.00

Very good, polished. Mr. Stoddard's coin 125.00

The last two were returned by Mehl.

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2/4/43 Elder. 1794. Very good, strong. Very strong date.. 150.00

4/29/43 Kosoff 1794 Very fine for coin. 265.00

4/29/43 James Kelly 1794 Ex. fine, very sharp. The rev. inscription being exceptionally well struck 500.00

5/3/43 R.H.Green (Chicago) 1794 Fine for coin 270.00
1794. Extremely fine. Very sharp. 625.00

I have only finished up to the letter N. How am I doing?

Stacks are advertising earlier books you have written and I want to know what you have written as I do not have any except the OFFICIAL GRADING GUIDE (both editions) which you sent me.

I noticed by accident a 1794 uncirculated dollar as Lot 1678 in Kosoff's August 13, 1958 auction but presume you know all about that one as it belonged to Boyd and was said to be better than the one sold in 1950 in Chicago for $8,000.

Thanks for keeping me out of trouble. Eric

Subj: **RE: (no subject)**
Date: 04/05/2004 9:14:29 AM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Here is the email you may have lost....

Dear Eric,

I have the scales book....you gave to me on one of my visits.

I have only written articles and the one book....soon to change, of course.

Keep on going....am looking forward to looking at the invoices and your look at my look....

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 4/2/2004 8:27:16 PM
Subject: (no subject)

Dear JD:
If you just sent me a message this afternoon please send it again as I think I wiped it out.
I finished Johnson's 1943 invoices and found:
7/8/43 Stacks 1794 Strongly struck up. Fine.... 375.00
(It seems to have been returned because it was not marked paid as were many items on the invoice. It is possible that this may be the one I took.)

It was interesting to find invoices to George Walton among which was one sending him an 1884 and an 1885 trade dollar proof. He returned them.

The Green Estate Dollars were not received until mid-December 1942 and I have not checked December 1942 invoices because they are not assorted alphabetically first and by date next. I have not looked at 1944 either.
Eric

H

Subj: **St. Louis show**
Date: 09/20/2004 3:28:26 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Hope all is well with you....

Am coming up to the show in early October....probably come up Wed. the 7th, as the show starts at noon that day.

Do you have St. Louis Stamp & Coin invoices and purchases from 1920?

In that year, Virgil Brand bought an "Uncirculated" 1794 in July for $500!!! Seems like a very strong price....some have suspected that this is the prooflike Neil-Carter coin, but there is nothing to back this up. If you have invoices and purchases, perhaps a "link to the past" can be established, as little is known about this fabulous coin.

The two prevailing theories are:

Rittenhouse; Rittenhouse estate; Rittenhouse family; possibly St. Louis Stamp & Coin, July 1920; possibly to Virgil Brand; Brand estate; Horace & Arman Brand; possibly B.G. Johnson again or unknown dealer; Will W. Neil; Amon Carter Sr. & Jr.; Stack's 1984 Carter sale, etc.

Mint collection in 1839; traded to unknown collector for Washingtontonia or other "missing" stuff from the Mint Colleciton; unknown; possibly the same pegigree as above from 1920 on....

Now, I used to believe the second theory...still think it has a 20% possibility, but since evidence is pretty strong that Rittenhouse supplied the silver for the dollars, he supposedly GOT ALL the 1794 issuance! If this is true, this makes the first provenance a much better possibility (better than 50%, in my opinion, now) and I have to thank Ken Bressett for that one.

If you can help, thanks in advance....

Best,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

Subj: **new book.....**
Date: 01/07/2005 6:50:13 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Hope all is well with you and yours.....have not heard from you in a while, but I have not written you, either. Shame on me.

I have been working on the Bass book.....have almost finished it and I have a radical theory about the dentils on early coins.

Attached is the chapter on the early Mint (the dentil theory is discussed in it)....

There are other things you can help with in this

oops.....tried to send it with pictures (would have taken 3 hours!!!!!)...here it is without the photos, but that might not help much...

I am in Florida now (vacation with my 2 daughters in the Keys, then on to the FUN show in Ft. Lauderdale).

I can Fedex you a black and white copy, but it was done at Kinko's, so it is not in cool color (20 copies of the first 4 chapters in B&W was $408, in color it was $6,000!).

If you need it, and I think you will, I will Fedex it to you on Monday.....it is unedited, so there are tons of mistakes, but I needed to send it out to consultants to make sure I have not left out any varieties or included any that should not be there.

Let me know,,,

Best,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

Subj: **Re: new book.....**
Date: 01/08/2005 9:02:10 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I will be delighted to read your manuscript if you send it to me. For a major opus like this don't let anybody rush you into a dead line for publication.
I am glad you are fine and I know your daughters are having fun on the Florida keys. Perhaps they can find some genuine and false doubloons and bars (gold ones I mean).
We should be in touch more but the last show in St. Louis you were going to visit me and you probably got involved with earning a living (as you say) so you could pay Kinkos and have a Florida holiday.
My wife and I are fine but remember I am not allowed to drive. My granddaughter just got married and went to Turkey for a honeymoon and then to Croatia and Serbia. She is a new product designer for L'Oreal in New York. My grandson who gave up investment banking to be a principal of a New York City public school in the Bronx (transferring from Harlem to a worse environment) got engaged to brilliant beautiful New York investment banker whom he met over Internet. What goes around comes around.
I am very saddened at the tsunami because there but for the Grace of God go my wife and I. We have been to Sri Lanka, Puckett, Indonesia, Maldives, etc. where the worst was.
Have a wonderful New Year and many more. Eric

Subj: **Re: new book.....**
Date: 01/09/2005 10:55:19 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Please ignore the many errors in Chapters 3 & 4 (5 is not included, and only Chapters 1 & 2 have light editing). I have added, corrected, etc. Chapters 3 & 4, but as you will get them, they have many problems.

I wanted to get it out to consultants, as there is one variety in the half eagles (BD-51) that might not exist. Also, if there is a variety I have omitted, I want to include it now, as I have renumbered this sucker 5 or 6 times!

You will get this by Tuesday afternoon, and I am sorry that I was unwilling to pay $6,000 for 20 color copies! $407 was a better deal...

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 1/8/2005 9:09:45 PM
Subject: Re: new book.....

Dear JD:
I will be delighted to read your manuscript if you send it to me. For a major opus like this don't let anybody rush you into a dead line for publication.
I am glad you are fine and I know your daughters are having fun on the Florida keys. Perhaps they can find some genuine and false doubloons and bars (gold ones I mean).
We should be in touch more but the last show in St. Louis you were going to visit me and you probably got involved with earning a living (as you say) so you could pay Kinkos and have a Florida holiday.
My wife and I are fine but remember I am not allowed to drive. My granddaughter just got married and went to Turkey for a honeymoon and then to Croatia and Serbia. She is a new product designer for L'Oreal in New York. My grandson who gave up investment banking to be a principal of a New York City public school in the Bronx (transferring from Harlem to a worse environment) got engaged to brilliant beautiful New York investment banker whom he met over Internet. What goes around comes around.
I am very saddened at the tsunami because there but for the Grace of God go my wife and I. We have been to Sri Lanka, Puckett, Indonesia, Maldives, etc. where the worst was.

Subj: **Gold book**
Date: 01/17/2005 8:38:47 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I believe the title to your book can be improved.
You use the word Die twice in the title. The first use is unnecessary and I recommend eliminating it. The second change is to move the dates to the second line as it will be in a clearer position. It will not cut down the concept but confine it from the beginning.
My suggestion is:
VARIETIES & DIE STATES
OF 1795 - 1834
UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

You may like AND instead of &.
You may think you did it best in the first place.
Dave Bowers accepted my change in the title of his giant SS Central America book which as a coffee table book is too heavy to go on the coffee table but should be placed under it.

Your book will be worth its weight in gold.

Further comment will follow. Eric

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 1/17/2005 1:29:07 PM
Subject: Your US gold coin book

Dear JD:
What a fascinating draft you sent. Harry Bass would have been proud of you.
I have just glanced at it because it will take me much more time and concentration. I want to make some preliminary comment.
In the Table of Contents I believe the use of the word CONVENTIONS may be misleading and another word should be chosen.
I have not read much of the text but I want to know if you are discussing the number of reeds on the edge of the various pieces. This is a very important feature as to whether there is uniformity, variation in number, overlap, etc. I am particularly interested as to whether you point out that there are 200 reeds on the fake 1804 Eagle in the diplomatic sets and the correct number on genuine 1804 Eagles has a much lower number. It is also important to comment on whether the same Castaing dies were used for different denominations or different periods. I have never measured the size of any of the reeds, but that would be of interest.

When you say the half disme was coined in the "summer" of 1792 I think you should contact Joel Orosz who is about to publish a study on the half disme. I helped obtain much more accurate dating
for that coinage which he is going to use.
I look forward to being of further help. Eric

Subj: **Bass-Dannreuther gold book**
Date: 01/17/2005 10:32:57 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Hi to everyone,

As noted in the cover letter with the first 4 chapters of the book on early gold, I doubted one of the half eagle varieties (BD-51, an 1802/1 with a leftover 1798 reverse).

While in Florida at the FUN show, I realized how easy it would be to determine from the auction catalog (Stack's 6/1989, Lot 367) if the variety existed. When I got back, I looked at the catalog and realized: how could I be such a bozo?!!!!!

The photographs in Stack's sales are gang-shot (6 coins at a time, I believe Larry told me), so the reverse photo for Lot 364 was also used for Lot 367.....probably the coin right above Lot 367 in the gang shot, as IT IS THREE LOTS EARLIER. This is obviously the same photo (spot below T in UNITED, etc.), so I am deleting BD-51 and renumbering for the 6th time!

I hope to complete the renumbering (I have edited the first 4 chapters....many changes AND corrections, of course) and finish the eagles within the next 30 days, so you will receive a new manuscript with corrections, deletions, etc. sometime after that process is completed.

Thanks to all who have already made comments, corrections, suggestions, etc.....

Please send any new info ASAP (especially if there is a variety that I have LEFT OUT), as I hope to get this to the publisher by March...

Thanks in advance,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

Subj: **Gold Title**
Date: 01/18/2005 7:05:30 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
A further suggestion for the title is to change the word COINS to COINAGE. It will have more dignity. I will clear it with Harry Bass.
Eric

Subj: **RE: Gold Title**
Date: 01/18/2005 8:53:24 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric,

As usual, you are right....sounds much better.....glad you could clear it..

Thanks,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 1/18/2005 7:05:39 AM
Subject: Gold Title

Dear JD:
A further suggestion for the title is to change the word COINS to COINAGE.
It will have more dignity. I will clear it with Harry Bass.
Eric

Subj: **RE: Your US gold coin book**
Date: 01/18/2005 8:42:10 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Thanks for the kind words.....you can see that I have been "pouring it all" into this project....

I want it to be a great book as a tribute to a great collector....

I have tried to think of another word for Conventions, but am stuck....

Would "Conventions Used" be better? What do you call "Conventions" other than "Conventions"....I realize the word has numerous meanings, but I really don't know what to substitute.....I also was uncomfortable with the word, but really haven't been able to come up with something better.....

I have not counted the reeds.....have counted the dentils on several quarter eagles but really think you are right about the reeding....I know the half dime guys used that to help with the emission sequence. If I had the time to do it, I would go to Colorado Springs and count the reeds on the Bass core collection (by the way, do you think it should be "core collection" or "Core Collection" with caps?).

I will get the Orosz info about the exact date of the 1792 half dismes....I know it was before big George gave his November 1792 address to Congress.

I have done much editing, and you should have gotten an email about the deletion of BD-51 and my 6th renumbering!!!!!!!!! I hope not to do that again, but there are no more "doubtful" varieties included....Of course, I may have left a "real" variety out and I hope that I get them all from the consultants....It was so EASY to disprove the BD-51 that I had included that I now believe I have them all. I have gone down "all the alleys" to prove or disprove each variety that Breen, Miller, etc. had included and now think I have them all. But.....one never knows....

Best,

JD

Subj: **Re: Your US gold coin book**
Date: 01/18/2005 4:21:09 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Standards sounds OK, but even that seems slightly misleading.....better than Conventions, though...

Dave will do it right, I am sure...

I think you are right....its capitals with Bass in front of core collection and not without Bass

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 1/18/2005 1:01:29 PM
Subject: Re: Your US gold coin book

Dear JD:
I suggest that you use the word "Standards" and "standards" instead of Conventions. Just as you say there are too many meanings of the word "Conventions". I could suggest Guidelines or Criteria but I think "standards" cannot be misleading or misunderstood.
You should use uncapitalized "core collection" unless you wish to add the word Bass in front in which latter case it can be Bass Core Collection. The Bass Core Collection I believe was selected by the Bass Foundation and that is a name designated by it.
Be sure in Dave's portion you have the year of date of birth and death of Harry.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Your US gold coin book**
Date: 01/18/2005 1:01:22 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I suggest that you use the word "Standards" and "standards" instead of Conventions. Just as you say there are too many meanings of the word "Conventions". I could suggest Guidelines or Criteria but I think "standards" cannot be misleading or misunderstood.
You should use uncapitalized "core collection" unless you wish to add the word Bass in front in which latter case it can be Bass Core Collection. The Bass Core Collection I believe was selected by the Bass Foundation and that is a name designated by it.
Be sure in Dave's portion you have the year of date of birth and death of Harry.
Eric

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 01/19/2005 11:40:33 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
How about either CODIFICATION or DESIGNATIONS? I like the former expression as it primarily relates to code representation.
ERIC

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 01/20/2005 2:09:22 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Whoops.....hit the send button by accident....

what I meant to say was: I have changed both.....Classification Guide it is, unless someone comes up with something better.....

Thanks,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 1/20/2005 11:47:50 AM
Subject: Re: (no subject)

Dear JD:
The revised title is great in my opinion.

You asked me to improve on IDENTIFICATION METHODS and I think I can. There is always a simple understandable wording. You could use CLASSIFICATION METHODS or CLASSIFICATION RULES but I like CLASSIFICATION GUIDE. The latter sounds gentle and not insistent. You could make it GUIDES if it pleases you but I prefer the singular. Classification is a non-stilted, clear and broad word. It can also be used in the text when convenient.
Eric

Tuesday, February 08, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: visit?**
Date: 02/08/2005 5:14:31 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Dear Eric,

Yes, driving up tomorrow....but might be later than I originally thought, so it might be later in the afternoon. We might not get away as early as I hoped, but we will leave as soon as we can. Paige is 17 and needs her sleep.

Will call when we are close (hour or so?).....

Let me know how much advance notice you need.

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 2/8/2005 12:16:18 PM
Subject: Re: visit?

Dear JD:
This Wednesday afternoon (tomorrow) to see you and your daughter would be a nice diversion for me. I did not know there was a show in St. Louis. Are you driving here from Memphis? Give me further details.
Eric

Subj: **Re: visit?**
Date: 02/08/2005 6:58:13 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
There is a snow storm predicted so check the weather. If Paige needs sleep tell her to sleep in the car part of the time. I need sleep too so I will rest after lunch so as to be ready for both of you. Eric

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **Re: Your Early Gold Book**
Date: 02/12/2005 12:43:22 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
What happened on Friday was that I sat down to wait for your telephone call and think about the dentils. I fell asleep and missed your telephone call. I did not pick up my answering service until that evening.
I am glad that I renewed my thinking as I have an answer which will surprise you but want to think more about it.
As to the reproduction and copy examples and fakes of American material I definitely need some of your duplicates. I need electros of cents and half cents as mine are not complete enough or good enough for my museum exhibit. I would like to get as many of the colonial and pioneer copies as I do not have. I will return of those you send me any I have already. If you have any duplicate counterfeit half dollars of the 1830s I would like to buy those or trade something for them. Please put this on your priority list as you will have fun doing it.
My best. Eric

Subj: **Your Early Gold Book**
Date: 02/11/2005 8:13:16 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I have a major suggestion for your book. Virtually all the pages with enlarged images only as well as the pages with the die designation and description do not show the DENOMINATION. Without going back to the section heading one might not know what denomination is being referred to. A photocopy of a page alone would give no clue. Opening the book and going to what may be the right date would not tell you if you had the denomination you are looking for.
I presume you forgot to come back to see me on the way home but I feel your dentil theory is not strong enough to assert. I have a much improved theory if you want to pursue it further. I have abandoned my first theory because I reviewed your images for hours until I almost gouged my eyes out.
Eric

Subj: **RE: Your Early Gold Book**
Date: 02/12/2005 10:25:39 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric,

Did not forget, but when I called I got the answering machine, so I thought you were resting. (Called about 1:30, as we were late in leaving).

I like the denomination idea.....will figure out how to do that, although I had considered using the footer (like in the grading book) to denote "where you are" in the book.

I think we all have been "hitting around" the dentil question. Still thinking about ways it could have been done, as you are.

I'll think about it and talk with you soon if I come up with something new.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 2/11/2005 8:13:20 PM
Subject: Your Early Gold Book

Dear JD:
I have a major suggestion for your book. Virtually all the pages with enlarged images only as well as the pages with the die designation and description do not show the DENOMINATION. Without going back to the section heading one might not know what denomination is being referred to. A photocopy of a page alone would give no clue. Opening the book and going to what may be the right date would not tell you if you had the denomination you are looking for.
I presume you forgot to come back to see me on the way home but I feel your dentil theory is not strong enough to assert. I have a much improved theory if you want to pursue it further. I have abandoned my first theory because I reviewed your images for hours until I almost gouged my eyes out.
Eric

Saturday, February 12, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Gold book**
Date: 02/12/2005 7:25:25 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
It would be more scientific to place on the pages with enlarged images the amount of enlargement so people could measure items for comparison or study. You could use 2X or 3X and explain the abbreviations early on. Eric

Saturday, February 12, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Your Early Gold Book**
Date: 02/12/2005 12:43:22 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
What happened on Friday was that I sat down to wait for your telephone call and think about the dentils. I fell asleep and missed your telephone call. I did not pick up my answering service until that evening.
I am glad that I renewed my thinking as I have an answer which will surprise you but want to think more about it.
As to the reproduction and copy examples and fakes of American material I definitely need some of your duplicates. I need electros of cents and half cents as mine are not complete enough or good enough for my museum exhibit. I would like to get as many of the colonial and pioneer copies as I do not have. I will return of those you send me any I have already. If you have any duplicate counterfeit half dollars of the 1830s I would like to buy those or trade something for them. Please put this on your priority list as you will have fun doing it.
My best. Eric

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **RE: Dentil Dentistry**
Date: 02/28/2005 2:15:58 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Long Beach was fine.....saw a few neat items.....sold a few.....smiling....

I am anticipating your outline.....will incorporate into the work, I am sure.

my new address is:

John Dannreuther
JDRC
Box 3330
Memphis, TN 38173

This is new, as are my phone numbers:

901 523-9687
901 523-2995 FAX

Best,

JD

---- Original Message ----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 2/28/2005 12:16:45 PM
Subject: Dentil Dentistry

Dear JD:
I have written in the last few days a new outline of ways to put dentils on coin dies. It is being typed now. It will be checked and probably added to and clarified and will be mailed to you. You will be surprised as to what I have conceived.
I lost your mailing address so send that to me.
Hope you did well at Long Beach. Eric

Subj: **Dentil Dentistry**
Date: 02/28/2005 12:16:39 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I have written in the last few days a new outline of ways to put dentils on coin dies. It is being typed now. It will be checked and probably added to and clarified and will be mailed to you. You will be surprised as to what I have conceived.
I lost your mailing address so send that to me.
Hope you did well at Long Beach. Eric

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

Mr. John Dannreuther
JDRC
P.O. Box 3330
Memphis, TN 38173

March 3, 2005

Dear JD:
You have raised a fascinating challenge as to how the dentils were cut into the dies for early U.S. coins. You have pointed out to me that some dentils are of different width, different length, have different or no space between them, are often joined or touching, etc. The dentils seem to have no repeated sequence in the variations. These differences are all very slight and seem to improve into the 19th century. You have pointed out that one variety of the 1795 US eagle has a few inwardly pointed radial extensions from the center of certain dentils. I notice that some dentils on some coins do not point directly at the center of the coin and are slightly off radial position. No dentils are halved or partially complete and regardless of the number of dentils they are all complete.
I am not aware of any description in a reference book or article as to how dentils are applied to the dies in the late 18th century or early 19th century in America (See later comment as to Rust experiments). Many methods were deliberately kept secret. The US Mint had no steam power and relied on ingenious mechanical skill.

I do not know if the dentils on early U.S. coins are flat, sloping or curved on their tops and this will be a magnification study of importance.

I pretended I was a diemaker of the past and submit possibilities.

New Information-Possibility One

I asked my curator, Tom Serfass, to see if he could find anything on the matter and he certainly did. He found a discussion on internet about how dots and dentils could be put onto dies for reproductions Gallery Mint makes of early U.S. coins (Gallery Mint site, under Die Sinking). It was apparently prepared by Joe Rust, the master mechanic for Gallery Mint, who unfortunately just died at an early age. His method was using an old method of a gang punch but improving it drastically. His punch construction had two hand cut designs side by side with appropriate curvature, one design being a full dentil punch for one dentil and the other being somewhat the same but with a much shallower design. The shallower design was to create a depression for centering the full dentil portion of the gang punch when the punch position was advanced and rotated along the perimeter for the next dentil punching. Therefore a full dentil and guide for the next dentil were accomplished with each strike of the punch.

6450 CECIL AVENUE ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63105 [redacted]

Then he indicates that a jig to control the position of the punch was important for lettering, beading, and dentils. He does not describe the jig, but indicates it should have a rectangular opening to keep the punch in upright position when being hammered by hand. This eliminates hand holding of a punch and deviation at an angle or twisting when the punch is struck.

My thinking is that such a jig has to have a defined circular path. Since the die stem is machined round a collar could be fit closely around the stem and lubricated for rotation. Such a collar could have a fixed arm as part of it raised and projected over the top of the die face. The arm could have a rectangular opening in which the punch stem would fit and be able to move in. If a gang punch were inserted and hammered it could create a dentil and an adjacent shallow position next to it. The collar would have to be locked by a set screw so that it would not move when punching occurred. It could be unlocked for rotation of the collar jig so that the finished punch element centered itself in the shallow centering depression and then locked into this new position. Each hammer blow of the punch being done by hand would differ somewhat in force and create slightly different – deeper, wider, narrower, and varied spacing of the design. It may have required another punching. As dentils were punched the punches could get hot, dirty, bent, roughed up etc. and need cleaning, filing, lapping, etc. There may have been spare punches as a punch in use might need treatment or replacement.

Possibility Two

A soft steel die with a flat face might be held by its stem in a chuck or other holder so that its face could be worked on and so that it could be rotated on its center axis a degree or two accurately and locked in its position. A cutter to some extent like a circular saw blade could be separately mounted on a shaft so that the cutter blade would rotate vertically to the die face and placed so that its cut would be radial to the die on the outside border of the die. The cutter blade would be rotated on its shaft to make cuts. It could be advanced slowly toward the die by using a screw turn handle. This would cut a dentil one at a time before a position change for the next dentil cut by the blade.

The blade could have one or several cutters on it. They would be as thin as a dentil in width. They would have to have a curved bottom to produce the curved end of the dentil. They could be inserts in the blade holder or produced by notching while soft and then hardened before use.

Only one dentil would be cut at a time with the cutter advancing toward the center point of the die. Each dentil would be slightly different from the next due to the particular tooth order, for the first contact the position adjustment could determine how far in the tooth cutter went in the die. When the dentils are all cut into the die the die would be ready for the central design etc.

This method would be difficult to control, particularly making the blade in the 18th century. I must abandon this possibility.

PossibilityThree

Dentils could be produced by a method using some of the Castaing Machine principles. A punch for one dentil or a gang punch for a few dentils could be hammered in parallel along a straight steel strip, somewhat in position of the white keys on a piano. The strip

would then be hardened, the edge of a circular soft steel disc would be rolled vertically under pressure from its axle along the straight strip of dentils. The edge would pick up the dentil markings. The disc piece would then be hardened and look something like a reeded edge of a coin. This is similar to part of the Castaing principle that a straight strip is transferring the design to the edge of the circular roller. This would have one straight strip while Castaing has two opposite each other to avoid crushing the edge design. Then a soft die with its face upright and able to rotate on its axis would be impressed vertically by the roller with the design under pressure near the outside perimeter of the die. The roller would press into and turn the die while transferring the dentil design onto the die. The dentils would all be in radial position due to the rotating motion of both pieces. The diameter of the roller would probably be the same as the diameter of the die. When each dentil was formed they should not be marred as the two surfaces separate in two directions as they turn together.

This is very tedious and extremely difficult. Rolling soft steel between one flat die and one decorated die may be impossible to transfer an image and not spoil it.

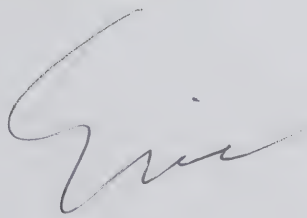
Conclusion

The spiked extensions on some of the dentils of one variety of the 1795 eagle only apply to one die and could be caused by excess hammer pressure on the respective dentils or something experimental or abnormal. This will be commented on later if needed.

Any clarification of this report will be attempted as promptly as I can. Any challenges or changes or improvements in logic are very welcome from anyone.

Give me your thoughts so I can sleep at night otherwise I would not be able to turn off my noodle until a satisfactory answer is located. The early minters accomplished it so we can too.

Your "nonogenerian" friend,



Eric P. Newman

I

Subj: **dentils, dentils, and more dentils**
Date: 03/07/2005 6:14:45 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric,

I just read your letter and it has set my mind astir, also.

I will digest what you sent and give you my "refined scooped" dentil theory. I am now thinking of calling the dentils "engraved" instead of "scooped." This idea came from Edgar Souders' *Bust Half Fever*. He calls them that and implys that a single punch, as you note there are no doubled ones, was used for bust halves. I tend to agree, as the dentils on bust halves look different to me than those of 1795-1807 coins.....I need to see if there is a demarcation line earlier than I previously thought (1828-1836).....possibly 1807-1808....John Reich might be partly (or wholly) responsible for the change in dentil preparation, if there is one, as he arrived in 1807.

Thus, if I am right and not the rest of the world, engraved dentils (possilby just 1795-1807) would involve some sort of sharp tool, while punched dentils are the even, bead like ones made with a punch-like tool with smooth edges.... obviously, those seen after 1828 are made with some type of gang punch, as doubled dentils are seen ----------when the close collar was introduced, I think they realized that the exact diameter of the coins would accentuate unevenness in the dentils, so they went to punched dentils. Before that time, I believed engraved dentils is a more accurate term than punched dentils for those coins prior to 1828 (1836 for half dollars, the last coins to have bead-like dentils, while other coins were converted in different years....ex. 1829 in the middle of the year for the half eagle). This is like using the term "close" collar instead of "closed" collar, although, of course, the "close" collar is closed. That is another story, of course.

Anyway, I think some type of chiseling or engraving tool seems to have been used on the dentils, at least on the 2 obverse/1 reverse dies of 1795 and the large cents and other coins that are pre-1808 (as noted above, I believe that a change may have taken place at some point, as the dentils are slightly more uniform after 1808....maybe they just got better engraving them, also.....as noted above, will work on this aspect). I have looked at Bust halves and some other series and I believe some type of PUNCH was used on them. So it is possible that several different procedures were used to create dentils. You, in your research, went through several scenarios.

As you said, we really don't know how they did some of the things they did. Trying to figure them out is the fun of it all.

Will advise when I have something new to report.....gonna read yours again.

Best,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

Subj: **Dentil work**
Date: 03/10/2005 8:44:06 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To:
BCC: [redacted]

Dear JD: March 10,2005

Having carefully read your March 5, 2005 communication I believe we can easily reach a consensus between us for the creation of dentils on 18th century US Mint coinage dies. I am not undertaking to comment on improvements beyond 1807 because improved content of steel, improvement in hardening of steel and other factors became slightly more sophisticated. I am omitting from the discussion circular rings or arcs of dots, stars, lettering or numerals even though they may be related in application to the dies.

What is attempted here is a logical surmise because we do not have any equipment, drawings or descriptions to examine. Fortunately we have coins from the period struck from many dies. Your preference to use the word "engraved" can be accepted but the problem is what is it that has been engraved. Does your meaning of engraved mean cutting into a flat surface (intaglio) or mean that the design had its surrounding material cut away? Your use of the words "scooped out" would indicate intaglio. Did it mean that you thought the die itself was scooped out for each dentil?

As I see it there are three stages in producing depressed dentils on a die. The first stage would be the intaglio cutting of design work in intaglio into a matrix or master hub which after having been hardened would be used to make a punch or extra punches as needed. Then the punch would be hardened. All punches made from the matrix would have a raised design and be very similar. Any punches so made would be subject to breakage, deformity and other wear due to multiple use in transferring the design into a die.

There is no mirror image problem when the design is a dentil.

Cutting dentils directly into a die one at a time is too tedious and non-uniform and means that one slight error might spoil all prior work.

I believe that first the matrix, then the punch and last punching the die is what Joe Rust was doing for Gallery Mint reproductions.

The gang punch idea for a circular design was not new in the late 18th century to provide uniform spacing for a repeating circular design. The design was punched at least twice. Rust has shown that a two element design on a gang punch is more effective for spacing and eliminating evidence of double punching if one dentil on the punch creates a shallow impression and the other adjacent one creates a full depth impression. The shallow element would be a trench which would center the full depth element after the punch was moved in an arc along the die perimeter. There would naturally be slight variations due to differences in the hand held hammer impact. If other gang punches were substituted there would also be slight variation in the dentils.

The jig used to position a punch I have previously described as a collar around the die stem with an arm having a rectangular hole for punch insertion and guidance. The collar would be clamped onto the die stem or would be held by set screws when the punch was hand hammered and the holding devises released for movement of the jig to the next punch position.

I hope this presentation has teeth in it. If you agree in principle I will be glad to write this up for your book or otherwise after you give it a thorough revision and clarification or vice versa. We certainly may leave the procedure open for others to refine, expand or challenge. It could stimulate lots of thinking on the subject.

My best. Eric

Subj: **RE: Dentil work**
Date: 03/11/2005 8:15:17 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric.....

Am in Baltimore.....leaving Saturday for NYC.....going to visit ANS, so I hope to examine some of their dies.

I have talked with several experts here in Baltimore and also looked at a lot of different coins.

It seems that there WERE two methods of making dentils.....

half dollars have rounded-end dentils that are very uniform.

However, gold coins, Bust dollars, 1796 quarters, and I am sure some of the other early coins, have non-uniform dentils (both B-1 AND B-2 of the 1796 quarter have very erratic dentils.....even some large ones over small ones!!!!!! (The small one is on top on the coin, so it was engraved (?) scooped (?) before the larger one.) Hard to describe, but there is a definite difference in 1796 quarter and 1795 half dollar dentils.

Am leaning toward a combination of punched and engraved (or scooped with a graver's tool to finish each dentil) for early gold coins, 1796 quarters, etc.

The half dollars have such even, rounded dentils that they are obviously punched. I believe that researchers have seen dentils like the half dollar and have lept to the conclusion that all dentils were punched.

I will send you the rewritten part of the chapter that deals with this.....I have rewritten it, but am going to do it again!

Best,

JD

---- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 3/10/2005 8:44:12 PM
Subject: Dentil work

Dear JD: March 10,2005
Having carefully read your March 5, 2005 communication I believe we can easily reach a consensus between us for the creation of dentils on 18th century US Mint coinage dies. I am not undertaking to comment on improvements beyond 1807 because

improved content of steel, improvement in hardening of steel and other factors became slightly more sophisticated. I am omitting from the discussion circular rings or arcs of dots, stars, lettering or numerals even though they may be related in application to the dies.

What is attempted here is a logical surmise because we do not have any equipment, drawings or descriptions to examine. Fortunately we have coins from the period struck from many dies.

Your preference to use the word "engraved" can be accepted but the problem is what is it that has been engraved. Does your meaning of engraved mean cutting into a flat surface (intaglio) or mean that the design had its surrounding material cut away? Your use of the words "scooped out" would indicate intaglio. Did it mean that you thought the die itself was scooped out for each dentil?

As I see it there are three stages in producing depressed dentils on a die. The first stage would be the intaglio cutting of design work in intaglio into a matrix or master hub which after having been hardened would be used to make a punch or extra punches as needed. Then the punch would be hardened. All punches made from the matrix would have a raised design and be very similar. Any punches so made would be subject to breakage, deformity and other wear due to multiple use in transferring the design into a die.

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If other gang punches were substituted there would also be slight variation in the dentils.

The jig used to position a punch I have previously described as a collar around the die stem with an arm having a rectangular hole for punch insertion and guidance. The collar would be clamped onto the die stem or would be held by set screws when the punch was hand hammered and the holding devises released for movement of the jig to the next punch position.

I hope this presentation has teeth in it. If you agree in principle I will be glad to write this up for your book or otherwise after you give it a thorough revision and clarification or vice versa. We certainly may leave the procedure open for others to refine, expand or challenge. It could stimulate lots of thinking on the subject.

Subj: **Dentil creation**
Date: 03/25/2005 4:39:21 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EPNNES
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I have been studying your book draft images and want to point out two new thoughts.
1. You will notice as I previously mentioned that on some early coins the dentils do not quite point to the center of the die. They veer off slightly but close to the center. They are in a group. Whether this means that they were put onto the die by a roller or not I have not determined. Think about it.
2. It occurred to me that if the dentils were punched in one at a time there is a problem of how the ring around the dentils at the outside of the dentils themselves in some pieces are perfectly blended and smooth. This might have been accomplished by putting the die into a lathe and rotating the die and burnishing it with a polisher or gentle tool that would smooth the surface of the dentil outside ends into the ring as both the dentils and the ring are the same depth on the die and the same height on the struck coin. When the dentil punch went to the perimeter of the die there would be no reason to do this.
Give this a little thought

You have really raised a very difficult and fascinating problem.
Eric

Subj: **RE: Dentil creation**
Date: 03/26/2005 4:09:32 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Have several new ideas.....am in Florida and will be home tomorrow.....

will send you new thoughts.....

Now believe that two different dentil processes were used.....

Half dollars do have PUNCHED dentils with rounded ends.....others, which I think are "engraved" or "scooped," have a totally different look....will get pictures and show you.

Later,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 3/25/2005 4:39:28 PM
Subject: Dentil creation

Dear JD:
I have been studying your book draft images and want to point out two new thoughts.
1. You will notice as I previously mentioned that on some early coins the dentils do not quite point to the center of the die. They veer off slightly but close to the center. They are in a group. Whether this means that they were put onto the die by a roller or not I have not determined. Think about it.
2. It occurred to me that if the dentils were punched in one at a time there is a problem of how the ring around the dentils at the outside of the dentils themselves in some pieces are perfectly blended and smooth. This might have been accomplished by putting the die into a lathe and rotating the die and burnishing it with a polisher or gentle tool that would smooth the surface of the dentil outside ends into the ring as both the dentils and the ring are the same depth on the die and the same height on the struck coin. When the dentil punch went to the perimeter of the die there would be no reason to do this.
Give this a little thought

You have really raised a very difficult and fascinating problem.

Subj: **Electros, etc.**
Date: 04/17/2005 4:11:25 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I definitely need for our museum a few half cent electros and large one cent electros which you indicated you had in your enormous group of phonies. You must have some duplicates. I need some for our forgery, replica and reproduction exhibit.
Can you accommodate us in that respect? My best. Eric

Subj: **RE: Electros, etc.**
Date: 04/18/2005 8:48:17 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:
I can help you out, but I am trying to wrap up the early gold book.....hope to do that in a week or so. I will have to go to my "box" and see what years I have dups.....know I have more than 1 on several dates. Hopefully, I can bring you some for the CSNS show in early May. I really don't have many large cents.....they are much rarer than the half cents.
The Proof-only dates for the half cents were in great demand, as you know, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, so that is when most of them were produced, in my opinion.

On another subject, I now believe that there were TWO methods of producing dentils on pre-1830 US coins. The half dollars, quarter eagles, etc. have "half moon" ends and they are definitely punched into the working dies. However, the
eagles, dollars, half eagles, quarters, etc. have oddly shaped ends to their dentils (besides the varying width, length, etc.). I believe this type of dentil was "engraved" or "scooped" .....

Will send you rewritten section in the near future for your perusal.....

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 4/17/2005 4:11:30 PM
Subject: Electros, etc.

Dear JD:
I definitely need for our museum a few half cent electros and large one cent electros which you indicated you had in your enormous group of phonies. You must have some duplicates. I need some for our forgery, replica and reproduction exhibit.
Can you accommodate us in that respect? My best. Eric

Subj: **RE: Fake O Mint dollars**
Date: 05/08/2005 5:01:53 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

So good to see you in St. Louis.....sorry we did not have more time to chat.

I said in my article that I thought it was a far Eastern government mint (did not specifically name one, but thought the Chinese Mint would be a likely candidate). Doubt that it would have been the Phillipine Mint as we struck most of their coins, I think.

I did not discover the repeating depressions (not sure who, but at PCGS I believe it was Mike Farone, who now works at PCGS instead of ANACS).

I do not know why NGC did not publicize that they were no longer grading them - there is little info of that type that is shared, but it should be, of course.

Of course, we don't know where they were made for sure, but the purity of the silver (95%) and the quality of the fakes seems to point to a government mint and they first appeared in the Far East.....so, I just drew conclusions based on the available evidence.

Best,

JD

---- Original Message ----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 5/8/2005 2:58:51 PM
Subject: Fake O Mint dollars

Dear JD:
When you told me about the fake small O Mint dollars you said that they were made by the Chinese Mint. Bob Leonard has written in Coin World that false dollars first appeared in the Philippines and gives 19th century newspaper citations. Was there any mention of the mint mark in that publicity? When did dollar die variety people first mention the size of the O? Has your thinking been modified?
I note that the Red Book lists genuine O Mint dollars for each date from 1879 thru 1904 but does not go into size. I believe Ken
Bressett should be notified what the facts are so he can consider including a comment.
What do you now think? Did NGC keep this matter quiet as a business matter and how long did they know about it? When did PCGS first learn about it? I
thought there was a modest amount of joint ownership interest in both PCGS and NGC

and wondered if they shared that type of information.
Did you discover the identical indentations on the reverse of various dates of small O reverses? If so I really heartily congratulate you again. Are there other fakes that you know of which have not been revealed? It is possible that those who have a counterfeit small O mint dollar will try to make a rarity out of it and the Secret Service will not have time to do anything.
I was glad to see you. Eric

Subj: **Fake O Mint dollars**
Date: 05/08/2005 2:58:46 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
When you told me about the fake small O Mint dollars you said that they were made by the Chinese Mint. Bob Leonard has written in Coin World that false dollars first appeared in the Philippines and gives 19th century newspaper citations. Was there any mention of the mint mark in that publicity? When did dollar die variety people first mention the size of the O? Has your thinking been modified?
I note that the Red Book lists genuine O Mint dollars for each date from 1879 thru 1904 but does not go into size. I believe Ken
Bressett should be notified what the facts are so he can consider including a comment.
What do you now think? Did NGC keep this matter quiet as a business matter and how long did they know about it? When did PCGS first learn about it? I thought there was a modest amount of joint ownership interest in both PCGS and NGC and wondered if they shared that type of information.
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I was glad to see you. Eric

See also: Coin World, 5/16/2005

Subj: **RE: Mico O Counterfeit Dollars**
Date: 06/03/2005 12:59:26 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:
I theorized China (or some other far Eastern Mint), but others have thought a domestic "gang" and that, of course, is possible. We really don't know who made them, but in the quantities that possibly are involved, one would think that a mint was involved!

Anyway, its fun stuff. I have revised my "scooped dentil" theory and now believe that a punch was first used and then a graver tool was used to "finish" them. We may never know exactly how they were made, just like we may never know who made the Micro O dollars. If they had used a regular O reverse instead of a Micro O of 1899-O, we would never have had this interesting discovery.

JD

---- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 6/2/2005 7:43:36 PM
Subject: Mico O Counterfeit Dollars

Dear JD:
I asked my friend, Professor Peter Gaspar of St. Louis what he thought about your theory about the Chinese Mint making counterfeit US silver in the 1896 - 1902 era dollars and he sent me a reply which is sent to you following this note. I hope this is helpful in some way. Eric

Monday, June 06, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **RE: (no subject)**
Date: 06/04/2005 10:46:41 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:
I will go to the new owner of the most expensive nickel in the world.....the 1913 nickel.....

Will see if they have any interest. The last time, most thought the asking "price" was too steep, but you never know.

The show is over today, but I believe Legend is still here.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 6/3/2005 1:04:56 PM
Subject: (no subject)

Dear JD:
Do you think we can offer the new owner the original leather case for the 1913 nickels and the Type II nickel in it in an exchange for a beautiful pair of Pan Pac $50s? No other owner has the case to show off their coin. This is exactly what you previously to accomplish in a different era of pride and exhibition.

Eric

Monday, June 06, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 06/05/2005 11:17:07 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From:
To: [redacted]

Dear Eric,

I have proposed it to them and they are considering it.....

I will not be home until Thursday (few days of vacation), so I might not find out until next week (the week starting June 16th).

Will advise,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From: Eric
To: [redacted]
Sent: 6/3/2005 1:04:56 PM
Subject: Re: (no subject)

Dear JD:
What I am proposing is only about 2% of the cost of the 1913 nickel. Certainly his value goes up more than 2% in the original holder.

Eric

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **Re: Mass. 1776 reproduction**
Date: 06/16/2004 12:29:00 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Wandering JD:
Thank you for your prompt and extensive reply which will be answered in two parts.
The original 1776 Mass 1d is in the Mass. Hist. Soc. collection. What is the diameter of you fake? There may be several fake varieties.
As to the Mass.1/2d I do not have a fake of it but I am not working on that item.
As to the NH 2d that is in my opinion a fake of a nonexistent coin. It certainly has a wide distribution.
Thanks. Eric

June 29, 2005

Dear Early Gold Enthusiast,

The day has finally come. After 14 months (I estimated 6), the early gold book is complete. There have been substantial changes (renumbering, new discoveries, etc.), so this version is quite different than the previous one. Many of the errors in the first version have been corrected, but there are always more.

There is still some work to be done (emission sequences, a few other tables, the last photograph needed - 1825/4 half eagle - the copy herein is poor, but Larry Hanks is providing a great color shot, he says), but the body is complete.

This will be going to press soon, so if there are any comments, suggestions, corrections, etc., please send them as soon as possible, either by snail mail or email.

Thanks to all who have helped and encouraged this work, as all help is appreciated, large and small.

My mailing addresses have changed, but the email is still the same.

Email:
[redacted]

Regular Mail:
John Dannreuther
Box 3330
Memphis, TN 38173

If you need to **Fedex** me something, use the following address and mark the package:

Hold for pickup at Fedex location:

John Dannreuther
JDRC
50 N. Front St.
Memphis, TN 38103

901 523-9687

Thanks again for everyone's help.

JD

Subj: **RE: (no subject)**
Date: 07/03/2005 5:41:43 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

I just sent you a copy of the finished early gold book (you will have Tuesday).
I changed quite a bit in this version.....

I will get to the half cents soon.....

Hope all is well,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 7/2/2005 1:22:22 PM
Subject: (no subject)

Dear JD:
One of the ticklers on my desk is to follow upon the electrotype half cents matter. I realize how involved you are in everything and hope you will find time to take care of my museum needs. Thanks.

I think we both think alike on the dentil matter that probably there were two or more methods used to cut the dies. Peter Gaspar of St. Louis is going to England this summer and is taking a few of my early American pieces with him to see what the Royal Mint people think.
Eric
Eric

Thanks Eric

Memo

7/18/05

To : Eric P. Newman

From: Tom Serfass Tom

RE: JD Daneuther manuscript

Welcome Back!!

I paid particular attention to the question of die prep and dentil construction since that was your input. JD folded the scoop theory nicely into the text while acknowledging that the punch theory was what most people believed. There are just a few flags with notes.

The only thing which might be "wrong" is a couple of assertions that quarter eagles were almost exclusively hoarded rather than used (I have never heard that nor seen it in print) and that bankers charged premiums on quarter eagles because they were in such high demand. The implication being that only quarter eagles were such a great denomination that bankers could charge a premium rather than that bankers charged premiums for all gold coins. Again, I haven't seen that distinction ever mentioned but I have not submersed myself in the gold literature either.

I made a couple of flags to things I thought you might want to peek at. Not surprisingly, the book is amazing, packed with detail, gracious to previous work while not afraid to correct Breen or Adams or whomever when they slipped up.

He acknowledges your help in the foreword very graciously but he should have footnoted you better on the 1804 matter (it's flagged). I guess with Bowers having an 1804 book also it was the better part of valor to cite the general subject and its various literature.

Monday, February 11, 2002 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **back from the frozen? north**
Date: 07/29/2005 10:17:20 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Just wanted to drop you a note.....heard you are back from the frozen (?) north.

Did you receive the manuscript on early gold on July 5th by Fedex?

Best, from cloudy San Francisco,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

Subj: **Re: back from the frozen? north**
Date: 07/30/2005 10:49:14 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I am thawed and received your US early gold manuscript.
It so happens that I have four manuscripts to go over at this time but have studied part of yours. I have several suggestions and will work on your book this weekend. You have produced a fine piece of work.
I hope you are thriving in Frisco and found all of the gang celebrating the excessive excitement in numismatics.
I look forward to hearing all of the gossip.
Eric

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **Suggestions Risking the End of Our Friendship**
Date: 07/30/2005 4:29:40 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Please sit down and read this Email slowly and carefully.
I note that you have sent the current draft of your book to several others and I wonder what their suggestions have been. You accepted many of mine in the beginning. Perhaps I am or try to be too much of a perfectionist but I want you to make a great impact with your book so here goes.
Your pages are not yet numbered and I urge you to put the denomination of the coin at least in small type on a specific part of all pages on which only one specific denomination is described or discussed. Remember that the varieties for each denomination are numbered beginning with BD 1 and the denomination is not attached to that variety designation. Probably Harry did it that way.You must try to make it easier for the reader to be sure he knows the denomination first before the BD number. Not all of the coins have the denomination on them and you should not have to look at the pictures to tell you the denominations. Some of the pages already have the denomination in the heading or otherwise but a uniformly placed designation of the denomination is much better. Remember some of us may be "boobs" and may be confused between a BD number of one denomination with the same BD number of another. Very often a photocopy of a single page will be separately used and there might be no way to know what denomination it referred to.

Now to specifics: I will do my best to describe suggested changes but it is hard to do so without page numbering.
A small "a" should be in "And" on the title page.
In the Table of Contents the words "Guide for this work" is repetitious and not informative. I suggest "Distinguishing Features"
In "Acknowledgements" line 1 put in "because" instead of "for" and take out two commas.
In line 2 substitute "book" for "work" ; in line 4 "publication" for "book"; in line 4 substitute "others to enjoy" instead of "publication";
in line 7 move the word "numismatic" so as to be in front of "knowledge.
In the 4th paragraph the comment about Ken is negative and remember he is the editor of the Guide Book. I suggest:
"Kenneth Bressett, of Colorado Springs, another devotee of the study of dies and the minting process, helped in many ways and is a great sounding board for new ideas and theories." This includes most of your language and be sure to note that it is Kenneth not Ken for dignity.
Second page of Acknowledgement, first paragraph beginning on the page, line 6 , add "American" or "United States" before "gold".
There may be other pages where this insert should be placed but I leave this up to you as there are lots of gold coins of other countries.
In the INTRODUCTION second paragraph, line1, the word "our" is not proper for foreign, etc. readers and should be "America's"; "securing" is not the best word and I suggest "purchasing" or "acquiring"; also "remodeling" instead of "rebuilding". In line 8 take out the word "first".

In the Introduction in the 5th paragraph, line 4, it should read "a major device was hubbed" as only one major device as you know was put on a die.
In the page following the Introduction the first paragraph beginning
on the page needs US before gold in several places.
In the second paragraph line 2 put in "he created for" in place of "kept with".
In the third paragraph line 7 change "remove the clashing" (due to repetition and different meaning) and put in "attempt to eliminate the clashing marks"
In the 4th paragraph line 4 substitute "process of" for "procedure in"
Third page of Introduction line 2 after the word "detail" add "broke away or". Last line of page substitute "preparing it" in place of "putting it together"
In the BD 14 of the quarter eagle you refer in a footnote to the dollar minting records in 1804 and I believe you should refer to The Fantastic 1804 Dollar by EPN and KB as that was the original publication of that data. I think you should throw a bone to us old guys.
I know you realize that in some of your headings you use HALF EAGLE and SMALL EAGLE together, or similar expressions, the first referring to the denomination and the second to the size of the bird. You might consider using italic type or some other distinction so the reader is not confused. You could add the word "reverse" to make "Small Reverse Eagle" or "Large Reverse Eagle" or "Small Eagle on Reverse" or "Large Eagle on Reverse".

I am now exhausted after going this far. My eyes are shedding tears. After I hear from you as to whether you wish me to go on or if I do not hear from you again I will be able to know what to do. I think I will read Goldie Locks or go bass fishing or look for fool's gold.
You may be under the impression that writing a book is fun but when you get finished with people like me it will be more fun.
Happy daze. Eric

Subj: **RE: Suggestions Risking the End of Our Friendship**
Date: 07/31/2005 2:11:28 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

Of course, I wll make all your changes. This work, of course, has not been edited by Whitman (probably the publisher) nor have I put a "fine tooth comb" to it.

I wanted to send it out, as I had spent 14 months on it and felt I could not really add much more "content."

I always appreciate your keen eye and mind and you will note that, as you noted, I used all of your last suggestions.

Its nearly 1, so I am heading off to neverland....have to get up early.....

heading home tomorrow from SF,

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 7/30/2005 5:29:46 PM
Subject: Suggestions Risking the End of Our Friendship

Dear JD:
Please sit down and read this Email slowly and carefully.
I note that you have sent the current draft of your book to several others and I wonder what their suggestions have been. You accepted many of mine in the beginning. Perhaps I am or try to be too much of a perfectionist but I want you to make a great impact with your book so here goes.
Your pages are not yet numbered and I urge you to put the denomination of the coin at least in small type on a specific part of all pages on which only one specific denomination is described or discussed. Remember that the varieties for each denomination are numbered beginning with BD 1 and the denomination is not attached to that variety designation. Probably Harry did it that way.You must try to make it easier for the reader to be sure he knows the denomination first before the BD number. Not all of the coins have the denomination on them and you should not have to look at the pictures to tell you the denominations. Some of the pages already have the denomination in the heading or otherwise but a uniformly placed designation of the denomination is much better. Remember some of us may be "boobs" and may be confused between a BD number of one denomination with the same BD number

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"Kenneth Bressett, of Colorado Springs, another devotee of the study of dies and the minting process, helped in many ways and is a great sounding board for new ideas and theories." This includes most of your language and be sure to note that it is Kenneth not Ken for dignity.
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distinction so the reader is not confused. You could add the word "reverse" to make "Small Reverse Eagle" or "Large Reverse Eagle" or "Small Eagle on Reverse" or "Large Eagle on Reverse".

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You may be under the impression that writing a book is fun but when you get finished with people like me it will be more fun.
Happy daze. Eric

Subj: **Gold coins Ad nauseum**
Date: 07/31/2005 12:19:42 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
A few further thoughts:
As to Small Eagle and Large Eagle distinction from denominational Eagles it might be better to say Small Bald Eagle and Large Bald Eagle which will take less space and be specific and in no way confusing.
On the second page of Reverse Dies in the Classification Guide on line 5 I believe "diagonal lines" is much clearer than "straight- line rows" and at the end of the line "arc rows are" is better than "arc pattern is". Under the center drawing below the title should be "Another Cross Star Pattern" so as not to have the same title as the prior one and create confusion or appear to have made a mistake.
In DRAPED BUST STARS TYPE QUARTER EAGLE there is a footnote 15 that says a premium was charged by banks for quarter eagles until 1933 etc. I never heard of this. Could you put in a citation for this?
Now I will fly speck the manuscript of someone else.
Welcome back to Memphis. Eric

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 07/31/2005 4:56:28 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I was eating and ideas that worried me sprung up. The BD numbering and lettering system is cumbersome and confusing. It a can be enhanced substantially but will be extensive work. There are simple ways to change it or a substantial overhaul. I recommend a substantial overhaul. The simple way to avoid confusion in numbering is only for denominations. All you have to do is add an appropriate letter relating to the denomination in front of the BD numbers. There would be q1, q2, q3,etc.....for quarter eagles; h1, h2, h3, etc..... for half eagles; and e1. e2, e3, e4, etc.....for eagles. This would not interfere substantially with your die number and letter system. However if it would be clearer to use capital letters on the varieties and small letters on the dies that might be more practical because the coin numbers are referred to much more often. If you were starting a designation system all over again which I would highly recommend you do, even if it is a lot of work. You would avoid all this mess by using a BD die number and letter system only and leave out any q, h, or e for die designation so if you wanted to start with a denomination insignia you could do that. Thus q3 - D or q 3 D could be enough to determine the BD die combination as well as the single coin designation.
If you will think this matter over I believe you will do yourself and the numismatic public a great favor by simplifying your designations. If Harry caused this he will appreciate its improvement. There is no reason to have a separate designation for a coin and a separate designation for combinations of dies.
so that a die combination would be DB q 4 - B number or h 3 - C.
That solves all of the problems and confusion in one stroke. Naturally you would have to change any die from being designated as q, h or e.
This is not new for me as I suggested to Vlack when he began the Machins project that he put the date in front of the die designation combination and he did it.
Telephone me if this is not clear but ponder it beforehand.
Eric

Subj: **RE: Gold coins Ad nauseum**
Date: 07/31/2005 9:14:09 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

Am digesting what you have written.....of course, nearly every idea you have is a good one, so I will be using virtually all of them.

The reason there are no page numbers is because the pictures are in a different file (they are HUGE!), so I will not intersperse them until I have to do it! (for the publisher).

Of course, I guess I should have told you that this was an unedited version you received. I have made substantial changes in the last month.....

I have considered different numbering systems (201 for $2 1/2, 501 for half eagles, 1001 for eagles is one such system).

I really don't know which is best, so I have continued to use the BD numbers.....perhaps, one of the other systems would be better.

Some have suggested an open system to allow for new varieties.....one would be:

1795-1, 1795-2, etc., but that still does NOT address the denomination problem you noted. I will think about it and maybe one of us will come up with THE system.....when the correct system is finally found, I believe we both will know it.

Anyway, don't work too hard on this, as Whitman (we have a handshake deal) will undoubtedly throw their editors at me, also.....I am fairly tough, so I accept corrections, amplifications, etc. without squealing.....

Am quite tired from the 4 hour flight, so I will write more later.....

Best,

JD

---- Original Message -----

From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 7/31/2005 1:19:45 PM
Subject: Gold coins Ad nauseum

Dear JD:
A few further thoughts:

Subj: **RE: Simplification**
Date: 08/01/2005 1:01:51 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

Very close to what I had been formulating after I got your email.

I really like having BD-Q1, BD-H1, and BD-E1.....that part is the right designation, it seems (at least, I couldn't come up with something better. No way to confuse a quarter eagle with a half eagle or eagle.

Since I use Harry's (and others) method of calling reverse dies by their first date use (not necessarly the first year they were USED), this will make some desinations rather long.....example:

BD-H59 * 1-1803B

This seems a bit cumbersome.....will think some more, but I think you (we) are on the right track....

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 8/1/2005 12:44:27 PM
Subject: Simplification

Dear JD:
Now that you indicate there is an opportunity to renumber I want to polish my thoughts somewhat. BD numbers could be Q 95 * 3 - D; H 31 * 2 - B; or E 01 * 3 - F .
Denomination Date Obverse Reverse

Star * could be centered or other symbol used.
No one could be confused by omitting the first two numbers of the date.
09/08 could be used for an overdate as that is important.
The die combination is the BD number.
If you switch the order of the date and denomination so that two numerals are not side

by side then 95 Q ; 31 H ; and 01 E could be used instead and the * (star) could be eliminated.
As to the die designation Q, H, and E could be eliminated to avoid any possible confusion with the denominations.
This is very simple and probably a bit new. You then are free to describe all the distinctions in each die description.

Rest up before you tackle this. Eric

Subj: **Simplification**
Date: 08/01/2005 11:44:20 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Now that you indicate there is an opportunity to renumber I want to polish my thoughts somewhat. BD numbers could be Q 95 * 3 - D; H 31 * 2 - B; or E 01 * 3 - F .
Denomination Date Obverse Reverse

Star * could be centered or other symbol used.
No one could be confused by omitting the first two numbers of the date.
09/08 could be used for an overdate as that is important.
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As to the die designation Q, H, and E could be eliminated to avoid any possible confusion with the denominations.
This is very simple and probably a bit new. You then are free to describe all the distinctions in each die description.

Rest up before you tackle this. Eric

Subj: **FW: Re: Eric's idea**
Date: 08/02/2005 8:44:30 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric:

I told Ron Guth (a great researcher.....don't know if you know him) about your idea.....

He has been trying to get me to NOT use sequential numbering.....

He likes the use of the date, denomination, and die combo as the BD number.

I really do not know what to do.....hopefully, the answer will appear out of nowhere!!!!!!!!!!

Am digesting all of this (urp.....) and still thinkin'

Best,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

----- Original Message -----
From: Ron Guth
To: [redacted]
Sent: 8/2/2005 5:02:23 AM
Subject: Re: Eric's idea

Hi JD,

Interesting ideas...

I think the Q, H, and E designations are redundant. Most cataloguers will list coins in the following format: date, denomination, BD# (i.e. 1796 $2.50 BD-??), making the Q, H and E designations unnecessary. By itself, BD-E15 tells you it's an Eagle, but nothing about the date of the coin or the die pair used to strike it. To those unfamiliar with the system, does the H stand for Half Dime, Half Dollar, or Half Eagle, or is it the letter for the obverse die?

As you know, I dislike sequential numbering systems. The discovery of even a single new die pair throws the entire system out of whack. Hilt is a good example of how an otherwise intelligent and useful theory can be discredited by a single coin. In your book, you even allude to a couple of varieties that have been left out because their existence remains unverified in recent times. What if one of them shows up?

My advice – stick with numeric/alphabetic designations for the dies (1796 $2.50 BD-1A and 1795 $5 BD-1A). This shows which obverse die was paired with which reverse die and the scheme allows for easy expansion to include new mulings and/or new die discoveries.

No numbering system is perfect, but the goal is to create and/or use a system that is the least imperfect. Look at the various systems that already exist and examine their strengths and weaknesses:

Miller on Connecticuts
Cohen on Half Cents
Sheldon on Large Cents
Logan-McCloskey on Half Dimes
Overton on Half Dollars

Subj: **Re: FW: Re: Eric's idea**
Date: 08/02/2005 4:57:28 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

I am sure we will figure out the numbering system.....it will come to you or me in a dream!

No one knows the pattern eagle (George's pocket piece) because you bought the darn thing in the 40's (I guess) and it hasn't been seen since.....except your private viewings.....

It is too bad that it has not received the publicity like the "common" Brasher doubloons.....it is such an important piece of Americana and it is virtually unknown except to the real coin nerds.....

I have mentioned it to several numismatists and usually get a blank stare.....I tell them to look in the Redbook, but it only has "unique" and little else.

Would you allow a photograph? If so, it could be pictured in next year's Redbook and maybe it would then be appreciated.

It is way cool.....

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 8/2/2005 5:00:51 PM
Subject: Re: FW: Re: Eric's idea

Dear JD:
I do not believe I know Ron Guth but probably should. He has a fine reputation but I do not recall that we have ever been in contact. I do know his position with PCGS and I have his book listing the 100 rarest American coins. In that book I believe his group omitted the rarest and most prestigious American coin known and I wonder if he is aware of it. Since I am not commercial I am deprived of some important numismatic contacts.
I am glad he agrees with me in omitting serial numbering. As you know I have classified the Fugio Cent, the Continental dollar, the Plantation Token, the Virginia halfpence, the 1781 and 1785 counterfeit British halfpence and helped Vlack do Machin's Mills varieties. If you do not follow some of my suggestions I will understand completely. Sheldon's work demonstrated how ridiculous his serial numbering was but

did a lot worse things.
Keep thinking. Eric

Subj: **Re: Fantastic 1804**
Date: 08/05/2005 9:01:41 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:
CC:

Ken,

I have seen some of Eric's ideas about the ejection fingers, open (?) collar, and his ideas about the production of our early coinage.....

I think the finger could be the cause, but there is an 1827 dime, as well as the Proof 1828 half eagle in the SI.

Perhaps, Brad is right about the 1824/2 dimes.....an experiment with an early close collar.

I need to see one of those dimes raw (hopefully in Baltimore next week) and see if there are ejection marks between the reeds.....there ARE on the 1828 half eagle in Proof in the SI.....did not check the 1827 dime.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:
Sent: 8/5/2005 9:47:47 AM
Subject: Re: Fantastic 1804

Dear Eric:

This is a question that keeps surfacing. I had a conversation about this with John Dannreuther at the recent ANA convention in San Francisco. The numismatic community seems divided in opinion about when the closed collar was first used. Those who think it was earlier than 1828 point to a few early dimes that have a repeating defect in the reeding at the same position on the edge. It is not something universal, but seems to be confined to a single variety.

I have not been able to fully understand how it happened, but your explanation about the ejection fingers, may be the answer. Providing ejection fingers were actually used, but there is no record or proof of that. I told John that there was plenty of evidence that a Castaing machine was used for the early gold coins that he is studying; and he agreed. I am going to send a copy this to him so that he can see your opinion.

I think it would be a good idea to answer Brad Karoleff, but I wish that we had solid proof of how the abnormal coins were struck. Could it be that it was an early experiment that never worked? The fact that many of those early coins are out-of-round, or expanded in diameter, is proof that they were not struck in a closed collar. And, I doubt that there was an ejection mechanism that would push them out of a collar.

Ken

At 10:16 AM 8/5/2005 -0400, you wrote:

> Dear Ken:
> In coin World for Aug. 15, 2005 page 56 Brad Karoleff says the nicest thing he could imagine about our book and then indicates that we made an incorrect statement about the use of the Caistang Machine. This was like saying to a girl.

"That is a beautiful dress you are wearing.....it is a shame they didn't have your size."
If as he says there was a defect at the same position on the reeding of each coin of a certain variety then there has to be a collar....I think there is another answer. The ejecting fingers may have scarred each coin in the same position.
What do you think? Shall we answer him?
Eric

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
[redacted]

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Monday, February 18, 2002 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: FW: Re: Eric's idea**
Date: 08/05/2005 3:45:04 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:
CC:

Eric:

Another good idea.....that solves the odd looking 1804Q 1-1803B, which looks like TWO different dates or at least, quite jumbled.

Obviously, if a reverse die just has a letter, this is clean looking:

BD-1797Q 3-C

BD-1804Q 1-B (1803) is not as clean but it looks ok.....

Gettin' close, I think. We need to make it as simple as possible.

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 8/5/2005 3:34:38 PM
Subject: Re: FW: Re: Eric's idea

JD:
You could use BD: 1804Q 1 - B (1803) to show a use of the reverse of another year.
I think this will clarify the matter. Eric

Monday, February 18, 2002 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: FW: Re: Eric's idea**
Date: 08/06/2005 11:13:51 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Instead of a dash (-) after BD you might use a star or colon (:)
This would reserve the dash for the die combinations only and clarify the matter a bit for the user. Eric

Thursday, February 21, 2002 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Final cut**
Date: 08/08/2005 11:00:04 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Hello all,

This is being sent by email (and in person and by snail mail) to a diverse group, so I hope no one gets their feeling hurt if their system is not adopted.....however, I must choose:

Some have objected to the current naming system used in the Bass-Dannreuther early gold book. Its time to decide.....I have finished the book and am editing and making changes suggested by many of you. So, below is the slightly modified current system and another one.....the idea of one of the recipients.....

.....any others?

SEQUENTIAL NAMING SYSTEM

Currently, the Sequential system does not distinguish between denominations, so, if adopted, the system would be changed to:

New	Old	
BD:Q1 1-A	BD-1 1-A	First quarter eagle
BD:H1 1-A	BD-1 1-A	First half eagle
BD:E1 1-A	BD-1 1-A	First eagle

This system is the easiest one and cannot be simplified. Its biggest drawback is you do not know what date the coin is and there is no room to add coins.....here is another:

DATE NAMING SYSTEM

BD:1796Q 1-A This is the shortest a coin description would be
BD:1807Q 1-A (1805) The longest a particular description would be, where the reverse of 1805A is used for all quarter eagles 1805-07

Of course, it is easy to add a new reverse with either system.....however, adding a new variety does not disturb this system.....if it is a new obverse it will be obverse 2 or 3 or whatever the next number for that particular date.....adding a reverse, as noted, works with either system.

I also think that a single numbering system for all three denominations would be better than the two different sequentail systems and that would also be accomplished with the Date System.

As you can see, I am leaning toward the Date Naming System, but some of you are auction catalogers, some are grading service owners, others are collectors, etc.....so there are pluses for both.....

Page 2 of 2

Thanks,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Subj: **Dentilation**
Date: 08/09/2005 7:07:58 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Peter Gaspar just returned from visiting the UK Mint. I suggested that he should discuss with them the matter of cutting dentils into the die and lent him some of my early American pieces for them to examine. He observed the Mint engravers actually cutting dentils into a die. They still do it the old fashion way.
I told him to write a prompt report of what he learned and I will have a copy sent to you or he will. Hold up revision of this section of the book until you get this surprise.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Dentilation at the UK Mint report.**
Date: 08/11/2005 4:06:39 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

At 12:18 PM 8/11/2005, you wrote:

Dear JD:
I have just spoken to Peter Gaspar and asked further questions about his new report (which I sent you) to be sure I understood certain details he pointed out.
The actual punches are cut by the UK engravers and not made by punching them into a incused block to create a raised design.
The three raised images on each punch are as identical as the engraver could make them. They are not of different depths for registry when the punch advances around the circumference.

The engraver, Bob Evans, indicated that the triple bead punches were made with the lead bead originally iwith lower depth than the other two, but the actual tools we were shown had, as Evans observed, equal depth for all three beads. The implication was that, in use, the two "higher" beads were in some manner reduced to the depth of the lead bead.

They are a true uniform gang punch to help produce registry.
Three dentils are tapped by the hammer with a blow knowing that as the punch is moved forward one dentil at a time around the circumference each blow into the die will deepen slightly each of the two previously punched dentils it is over as well as creating a new dentil. This changes each dentil slightly because the punch is handheld. If the engraver determines to or does tilt the punch slightly in any direction to widen or lengthen the dentil deliberately as may be necessary to fill in the circumferential design in width uniformly then some dentils could be slightly wider than others, closer to others, longer than others or shaped slightly different from others. Since the engraver may repunch around the circumference several times or repunch several arcs of dentils or dots to make them more uniform this might result in minor differences as well.
None of the above takes advantage of the modern method of small design transfer and indicates no change in the centuries old method of using hand engraved punches to hand punch the dentils into dies.
If there is any questions on your part to my explanation please feel free to contact me or Peter Gaspar direct with a copy to me.
Incidentally this may account for the accidental wedges extending inward from a couple of dentils on an occasional die where the iron split open on one of several blows.
A fascinating situation. Eric

Subj: **RE: Dentilation at the UK Mint report.**
Date: 08/11/2005 6:03:09 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

Sounds interesting, to say the least.....will read tonight, as I am in Baltimore at a coin show and am heading out to dinner in a little while.

On another subject:

There may be some truth to the Brad Karoleff theory about the reeding on pre-1828 US coins.....he thinks some sort of segmented collar was used. He asked me to see if you have any off-center pre-1828 reeded edge coins.....

If you do, do they have reeeding?

I examined an early gold coin (1803/2 half eagle) here in Baltimore that was struck from misaligned dies.....obverse about 10% off.....

Guess what? It has NO reeding.....plain edge all the way around!

The segmented collar was around in Europe during this time, so maybe its possible that the segmented collar was known as an "open" collar at that time (?)

We KNOW, as the Mint documents say, that the close collar was introduced for produciton coins in 1828, but, as we have talked about on several occasions, we really don't know what an "open" collar really was.....

Another intriguing situation.

If a segmented collar was used, there should be some tiny dividing line or evidence of this, so we should discover it, if this is true.

Another question.....was your Washington President gold piece intended as a $10 piece or a doubloon? Do you know what it weighs?

Best,

JD

-- Original Message -----

From:
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Sent: 8/11/2005 12:18:57 PM
Subject: Dentilation at the UK Mint report.

Dear JD:
I have just spoken to Peter Gaspar and asked further questions about his new report (which I sent you) to be sure I understood certain details he pointed out.
The actual punches are cut by the UK engravers and not made by punching them into a incused block to create a raised design.
The three raised images on each punch are as identical as the engraver could make them. They are not of different depths for registry when the punch advances around the circumference. They are a true uniform gang punch to help produce registry.
Three dentils are tapped by the hammer with a blow knowing that as the punch is moved forward one dentil at a time around the circumference each blow into the die will deepen slightly each of the two previously punched dentils it is over as well as creating a new dentil. This changes each dentil slightly because the punch is handheld. If the engraver determines to or does tilt the punch slightly in any direction to widen or lengthen the dentil deliberately as may be necessary to fill in the circumferential design in width uniformly then some dentils could be slightly wider than others, closer to others, longer than others or shaped slightly different from others. Since the engraver may repunch around the circumference several times or repunch several arcs of dentils or dots to make them more uniform this might result in minor differences as well.
None of the above takes advantage of the modern method of small design transfer and indicates no change in the centuries old method of using hand engraved punches to hand punch the dentils into dies.
If there is any questions on your part to my explanation please feel free to contact me or Peter Gaspar direct with a copy to me.
Incidentally this may account for the accidental wedges extending inward from a couple of dentils on an occasional die where the iron split open on one of several blows.
A fascinating situation. Eric

Subj: **Reeding**
Date: 08/11/2005 8:58:28 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
The offcenter strike without edge reeding may indicate that reeding was put on by a Castaing machine after the coin was struck and that the striking was done normally before the reeding was applied.
Eric

Subj: **1792 Washington in gold**
Date: 08/11/2005 9:15:44 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Whoever asked you about the weight of the above coin has not read what has been written on the subject. The weight does not conform to the Eagle nor to the Doubloon and could not have circulated because it had no denomination or stated value. It would have to be weighed and its fineness determined each time it changed hands. Its smooth slight wear is justified only by being kept in a pocket and that pocket could only be George Washington's because he was given it. The only fascination correlation is that the Brasher doubloons were distributed as bribes to get a New York copper coinage contract and the 1792 President Washington was also distributed to try to use influence to get a US copper coinage contract. The Brasher doubloons did not result in obtaining the contract intended and neither did the 1792 Washington in gold.
Ain't numismatics fascinating? Eric

Subj: **RE: 1792 Washington in gold**
Date: 08/12/2005 8:25:15 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

Of course, the person who asked works for a company that owns a Brasher.....

I knew your gold coin was a "bribe?" to get a coinage contract, but thought it was about the weight of an eagle, as the Mint Act had been passed in April, so thought the maker was aware that it specified the weights of the coins.....

As for the reeding, you may indeed be correct about the reeding after striking, but that seems strange to me.....have to think about that one.

I still believe that the Castaing machine was used for reeding, but the errro coin made me think that another scenario COULD be possible.

I think it needs more research.....would like to look at some more errors, so am looking for silver coins, as all gold errors are rare, of course.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 8/11/2005 9:15:51 PM
Subject: 1792 Washington in gold

Dear JD:
Whoever asked you about the weight of the above coin has not read what has been written on the subject. The weight does not conform to the Eagle nor to the Doubloon and could not have circulated because it had no denomination or stated value. It would have to be weighed and its fineness determined each time it changed hands. Its smooth slight wear is justified only by being kept in a pocket and that pocket could only be George Washington's because he was given it. The only fascination correlation is that the Brasher doubloons were distributed as bribes to get a New York copper coinage contract and the 1792 President Washington was also distributed to try to use influence to get a US copper coinage contract. The Brasher doubloons did not result in obtaining the contract intended and neither did the 1792 Washington in gold.
Ain't numismatics fascinating? Eric

Subj: **1796 quarter**
Date: 08/17/2005 5:13:48 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Attached is a close-up of the dentils on an early strike 1796 Browning 2 (researcher Karl Moulton has written an unpublished article that shows B-2 coins were struck first, not B-1 coins, but that is another story).

Just save the attachment to your computer and then click on it to open it up.....

These dentils seem to indicate that a 2 or 3 gang punch was INDEED used on early US coins.....check out the repeating flaw on the upper left side of the dentil.

I think the dentil punch broke (maybe the same one used on the Small Eagle 1795 B-5 and B-6 half eagles with spikes?) and they did not bother to fix them like they did on the half eagles and half dollars.....maybe the smaller denomination was less important, but they left these "angled" dentils alone.

Also, I had been puzzled by the "doubled" dentils seen in this photo, but no longer. By moving the punch around the coin, one ends up where one starts, but not neccesarily exactly on "target." It seems that when he got back around to the bottom (good place to start!), he was slightly off and had to punch in new ones slightly off from the old ones. At least that is what it looks like to me.....whatcha think?

I like the name cigar-shaped dentils to differentiate them from the beaded dentils of later years.....gonna use it

I think the method your friend observed in England also was used for our coins. However, it appears that some "engraving" was done on them post punching, possibly to "round" them out, if this "broken" punch was used in 1795, too.....

There is really nothing else to explain the many spikes seen on large cents, half dollars, half eagles, etc.

Aslo, will be sending my candidates for the renumbering of the early gold book tonight or tomorrow.....everyone wants an open ended, date-based system.....

Out with the sequential numbers, in with the date-based system.....oh well, guess I will be up late for a few nights replacing and rewriting!

Best,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Subj: **Re: 1796 quarter**
Date: 08/17/2005 7:19:48 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Please be sure to include the name of Peter Gaspar in the acknowledgement as he went to a lot of trouble to speak with the actual engravers at the Royal Mint. They had a container with many gang punches. As I may have mentioned they often went around the circle more than once if the dentils needed a little adjustment and by virtue of the tool being handheld there would be slight variations in adjacent or separated dentils.
You have shown yourself to be very flexible in your thinking as stubborn as think you might be. You are a pleasure to help.
I await whatever is next. Eric

Subj: **Re: 1796 quarter**
Date: 08/17/2005 8:42:17 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

Peter Gaspar is now in the acknowledgement!!!

His effort is definitely appreciated.....it solved several problems, as the doubled dentils on the 1796 quarter that I just sent you really had me puzzled.....

Thanks to you (and tell him thanks, also),

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 8/17/2005 7:19:50 PM
Subject: Re: 1796 quarter

Dear JD:
Please be sure to include the name of Peter Gaspar in the acknowledgement as he went to a lot of trouble to speak with the actual engravers at the Royal Mint. They had a container with many gang punches. As I may have mentioned they often went around the circle more than once if the dentils needed a little adjustment and by virtue of the tool being handheld there would be slight variations in adjacent or separated dentils. You have shown yourself to be very flexible in your thinking as stubborn as think you might be. You are a pleasure to help.
I await whatever is next. Eric

Subj: **RE: new system**
Date: 08/17/2005 10:11:54 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Thanks. I'm a bit late on the interchange, so excuse any duplication of what your illustrious contributors might have suggested.
-
Suggest that obverse dies be listed by date, such as 1795-1, 1795-2, etc.
-
Suggest that reverses be listed by double letters, starting with AA for the earliest of 1795. The lettering could be continuous, not starting over with each year. In that way if hypothetical die AC, of 1795, turned up in on a later date, the same letters AC would be used—making it easy to see where the die originated. If you start the AA sequence with each TYPE, such as Small Eagle, Heraldic Eagle, Reich with open collar, and Reich with close collar, then you can have the AA, AB, etc., series be for 1795, BA and so on for 96, CA and so on for 97, and DA and so on for 98.
-
As to quick takes for a variety, probably an open system with BD-1 to BD-00 for 1795, then skip a few numbers and start with BD-15 (or whatever) for 1796, etc., would be easiest to use—sort of like Sheldon 1, 48, 214, etc.
-
I would give $2.50, $5, and $10 parallel numbering systems, as the denomination will precede any listings.
-
These gratuitous comments can, of course, be deleted by pushing a button!
-
Best wishes,
DAVE BOWERS

-----Original Message-----
From: John Dannreuther [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2005 10:01 PM
To: David Hall; Dave Bowers ANR; Eric Newman; info@stacks.com; Gordon Wrubel; Mike Hodder; Mike Sherman; Ron Guth; SAUL.TEICHMAN; Andy Lustig; Brad Karoleff; John Kraljevich; Larry Hanks; neil berman
Subject: new system

Hi,

Everyone voted for the date-based system, so I will change to that.....however, there are several options and I want to use the best one (or if someone comes up with a different one that is better than those listed):

Here are the ones that seem the best to me.....the example used is the first quarter eagle of 1796, formerly BD-1.....the actual die combination makes the designation too long, so I have dropped that bad idea:

1) 1796 BD-1Q or 1796 BD-Q1

2) BD 1796-1Q or BD 1796-Q1 or BD:1796-Q1 or BD:1796-1Q

3) BD 1796Q-1 or BD:1796Q-1

These are the simpliest ones that will work for all three denominations.....each date will start over with 1, so adding a new variety will be simple.....this solves the sequential problem of not being able to add new varieties with whole numbers.

Thanks,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Subj: **Re: new system**
Date: 08/18/2005 1:01:25 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Now you are cooking with gas.
BD should be first because when you write it or say it once you can then drop it if you wish and save a lot of writing in longer listings. The date should come next, followed by the abbreviation for the denomination. Then follows the sequential variety number, beginning all over again with each date. This eliminates the need of DASHES or spaces between elements because the letters and numbers alternate and even if run together cause no problem.
This requires the use of the book to determine the obverse and reverse die combinations which may not be needed in some situations. Also many can remember or easily use the numerical sequential numbers for each date and denomination for cataloging and for referring to varieties under discussion.
Your final position must be controlling and no one has the right to be upset because their ideas were not fully accepted.
Happy daze. Eric

Dear Eric:

My new condo is all electric, but I am gassed about finishing a numbering system!

I think it is close.....some of your ideas, some of Dave Bowers, etc.....

Hope no one gets upset, as I want the best, most useful, easiest to use and understand system.....no matter what it is!

BD 1796Q1 looks a little funny to me, as there are no dashes, but, as you said, there really is no need for them.....

One person HATES the Q, H, and E but I like them.....to me they give the buyer all the info one needs in the shortest amount of space.

That coin is the first variety of quarter eagle from 1796 and no one can be confused by it!

The half eagle and eagles of 1796 are immediately differentiated from the quarter eagles.....anyway.....it is close.

I will wait on more ideas to pour in, but that seems close to me.....

Dave Bowers thinks I should use something similar to his BB system for early dollars, but it seems a little complex....

the first quarter eagle would be:

BD-1 1796-1 A-A (he thinks the obverse dies should be numbered for each year and the reverse dies lettered for each year, so.....)

for the first few quarter eagles, it would look like this:

BD-1 1796-1 A-A
BD-2 1796-1 A-B
BD-3 1796-2 A-C
BD-4 1797-1 B-A
BD-5 1798-1 C-A
BD-6 1798-2 C-B

Of course, he suggests leaving gaps in the numbers for new varieties.....seems too complex, but there are some parts of it I do like....

for instance, I like the 1796-1 to represent the first obverse die of 1796, but I don't like the A-A,

A-B, A-C, etc.

After all ideas are received, I guess I will go into hiding this weekend and figure it out.....

We are suppose to sign the contract to publish this with Whitman in the next week or so.....I don't want to change too much more!!!!!

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 8/18/2005 1:01:34 PM
Subject: Re: new system

Dear JD:
Now you are cooking with gas.
BD should be first because when you write it or say it once you can then drop it if you wish and save a lot of writing in longer listings. The date should come next, followed by the abbreviation for the denomination. Then follows the sequential variety number, beginning all over again with each date. This eliminates the need of DASHES or spaces between elements because the letters and numbers alternate and even if run together cause no problem.
This requires the use of the book to determine the obverse and reverse die combinations which may not be needed in some situations. Also many can remember or easily use the numerical sequential numbers for each date and denomination for cataloging and for referring to varieties under discussion.
Your final position must be controlling and no one has the right to be upset because their ideas were not fully accepted.
Happy daze. Eric

Subj: **BEST SUGGESTIONS**
Date: 08/19/2005 10:49:07 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Well.....here are the best ideas, presented in no particular order of preference.....any of these work?

oops.....lost the formatting.....still the ideas are here.....most are obvious, but the first three have a unique (suggested by QDB) reverse die classification.....

each year starts with a unique letter.....for eagles, which are illustrated, 1795 is A, 1796 is B, 1797 is C, etc.

so the first die of 1795 is AA, the first of 1796 is BA, the first of 1797 is CA, etc.

Since the 1797 Small Eagle uses the Reverse of 1796, its reverse is BA, same as 1796, while the 3 1797 Large Eagle varieties are CA, CB, and CC.....

DATE	VARIETY	DENOM	BASS	OLD BD	OLD BD DIES	NEW 1	NEW 2	NEW 3
	SMALL EAGLE							
1795	13 Leaves, Close Date	$10	1-A	1	1-A	BD-1 1795-1 AA	BD-1 1795-1 AA	BD 1795-1 AA
	13 Leaves, Bust over 5, Leaf Near U	$10	2-A	2	2-A	BD-2 1795-2 AA	BD-2 1795-2 AA	BD 1795-2 AA
	9 Leaves	$10	2-B	3	2-B	BD-3 1795-2 AB	BD-3 1795-2 AB	BD 1795-2 AB
	13 Leaves, 5 Free of Bust	$10	3-C	4	3-C	BD-4 1795-3 AC	BD-4 1795-3 AC	BD 1795-3 AC
	13 Leavesm Bust over 5, Leaf Away from U	$10	2-C	5	2-C	BD-5 1795-2 AC	BD-5 1795-2 AC	BD 1795-2 AC
1796		$10	1-A	6	1-A	BD-6 1796-1 BA	BD-1 1796-1 BA	BD 1796-1 BA
1797	Small Eagle	$10	1-1796A	7	1-1796A	BD-7 1797-1 BA	BD-1 1797-1 BA	BD 1797-1 BA
	LARGE EAGLE							
1797	Large Eagle, Thin Long Neck	$10	2-A	8	2-A	BD-8 1797-2 CA	BD-2 1797-2 CA	BD 1797-2 CA
	Large Eagle, Thick Short Neck	$10	2-B	9	2-B	BD-9 1797-2 CB	BD-3 1797-2 CB	BD 1797-2 CB
	Large Eagle, Thick Short Neck	$10	2-C	10	2-C	BD-10 1797-2 CC	BD-4 1797-2 CC	BD 1797-2 CC
1798/7	Stars 9+4	$10	1-1797B	11	1-1797B	BD-11 1798-1 CC	BD-1 1798-1 CC	BD 1798-1 CC
	Stars 7+6	$10	2-1797B	12	2-1797B	BD-12 1798-2 CC	BD-2 1798-2 CC	BD 1798-2 CC
1799	Small Stars, Even Date, Star Touches Y and Near Bust	$10	1-A	13	1-A	BD-13 1799-1 EA	BD-1 1799-1 EA	BD 1799-1 EA
	Small Stars, Even Date, Stars Away from Y and Bust	$10	2-A	14	2-A	BD-14 1799-2 EA	BD-2 1799-2 EA	BD 1799-2 EA
	Small Stars, Even Date, Stars Near Y and Bust	$10	3-A	15	3-A	BD-15 1799-3 EA	BD-3 1799-3 EA	BD 1799-3 EA
	Small Stars, 17 Close,							

Star Point in Beak	$10	4-A	16	4-A	BD-16 1799-4 EA	BD-4 1799-4 EA	BD 1799-4 EA
Small Stars, 17 Close, Star Point on lower Beak	$10	4-B	17	4-B	BD-17 1799-4 EB	BD-5 1799-4 EB	BD 1799-4 EB
Small Stars, 17 Close, Star Away from Beak	$10	4-C	18	4-C	BD-18 1799-4 EC	BD-6 1799-4 EC	BD 1799-4 EC

Others??????????

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Saturday, August 20, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: BEST SUGGESTIONS**
Date: 08/19/2005 4:32:35 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

Gordon Wrubel also saw that confusion, also, and suggested this:

date/denomination/variety/die combo (logical, catalog order, etc.)

1796Q BD-1 1-A
1796Q BD-2 1-B
1796Q BD-3 2-C
1797Q BD-1 1-A
1798Q BD-1 1-A
1798Q BD-2 2-B
etc.

or with the QDB suggested reverse lettering, it would be:

1796Q BD-1 1-AA
1796Q BD-2 1-AB
1796Q BD-3 2-AC
1797Q BD-1 1-BA
1798Q BD-1 1-CA
1798Q BD-2 1-CB
etc.

Seems better, as the date and denomination come first, then the BD number, then the die combination. Right order, in my opinion, as noted above.

The other options are not as elegant as this.....or as simple, although the numbers back-to-back bother me slightly (thinking to myself.....hmmm), how about *

so,.....

1796Q BD-1 * 1-AA or 1796Q BD-1*1-AA or 1796Q BD-1:1-AA needs something to break it 1796Q BD-1/1-AA

I vote 1796Q BD-1:1-AA

Whatcha think? Close?

Best,

Eric
Keep up your good work.
numismatic project within my capabilities.

Page 2 of 2

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 8/19/2005 12:02:47 PM
Subject: Re: BEST SUGGESTIONS

Dear JD:
I still think that the use of a parenthesis around the date (1995) will prevent numbers from being run together much better than a dash or a space. Letters do not cause such a problem but what you now present does. Eric

Subj: **Re: BEST SUGGESTIONS**
Date: 08/20/2005 12:03:38 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I am glad that someone like Wrubel agrees with me somewhat.
What I think is cumbersome is the insertion of BD in the middle and not in front. Letters should not be next to other letters. If you get drunk you might think some merged letters like Q BD are QDB (for Q. David Bowers). I still like Q1, Q2, Q3 following the date for the combinations and then use the die varieties in letters after that.
Additionally if you use Dave's idea, start with J for the reverse dies and then you will not have the same letters standing for some obverse and some reverse dies, eliminating confusion. Then the reverse dies will be J, K, L. M, etc. and the obverse dies will be A, B, C, etc. Fortunately you do not have too many dies involved for any year. You must make this complex system as foolproof as possible.
I hope this is helpful. Eric

Subj: **Re: BEST SUGGESTIONS**
Date: 08/19/2005 4:32:35 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From:

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 02/11/2006 12:08:19 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I appreciated being informed as to your further findings on the spikes. I change my mind with the facts and am glad to do so. I have no interest in trying to convince others that I am right. From what you now point out I have another possibility as to how the spikes could happen. My new theory is:
When the dentil punch was hit by the engaver into the die the die could have split then and there causing the spike depression. The engraver's hammer blow may have been too hard on some occasions. Those spike depressions seem very perfect and not hand done. The engraver either did not notice the splits or did not feel it was material enough to begin over again on a new die.
If he was a bartender it would spike his punch.
Eric

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **RE: Electrotype half cents**
Date: 03/08/2006 3:08:26 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

It is great to finish the book.....you know the feeling, but I have been so busy lately with PCGS projects, as I took on the Director of Research position on Jan. 1 of this year.....used to be the unofficial D of R, but now have a salary to go along with the title.

I will get down to the vault and sort through them in the near future, I promise.....going to Baltimore next week, so will be back in town week of March 20.....will try and get down there.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 3/8/2006 12:41:52 PM
Subject: Electrotype half cents

Dear JD:
I am trying to work out the content of the display cases for our new museum as we plan to open later this year.
For a long time you have promised to send us a group of electrotype half cents but were too busy writing your book and making deals to get to your vaults. Would you please see if you could find time to take care of the matter for us. I enjoyed trying to help you and know you will get satisfaction out of helping us.
I am looking forward to your early US gold book.
Incidentally I hope you get a smile out of the comic ditty I wrote for the ANS honoring of Bowers as it was published in the March 2006 Numismatist.
My best to you. Eric

Subj: **Electrotype half cents**
Date: 03/08/2006 12:41:40 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I am trying to work out the content of the display cases for our new museum as we plan to open later this year.
For a long time you have promised to send us a group of electrotype half cents but were too busy writing your book and making deals to get to your vaults. Would you please see if you could find time to take care of the matter for us. I enjoyed trying to help you and know you will get satisfaction out of helping us.
I am looking forward to your early US gold book.
Incidentally I hope you get a smile out of the comic ditty I wrote for the ANS honoring of Bowers as it was published in the March 2006 Numismatist.
My best to you. Eric

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 04/15/2006 7:37:33 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
When I saw a new book on early US gold coins come out I naturally thought about you. That made me wonder why you had not yet sent me the group of electrotype US half cents which you said you would promptly get to after the Baltimore Show. I know how busy you must be but please find them for me.
Continue to thrive, Eric

Subj: **RE: (no subject)**
Date: 04/17/2006 9:21:27 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

Been like the one-armed paper hanger.....trying to finish up several projects.....have not gotten to the bank to sort thru.....

My daughter and I are working through the stuff, but have not gotten to that box.....with silver up, have been buying from the public.....

One day last week, I spent nearly the whole day buying, packing, and shipping three bags of silver.....at 58 years old, I know I should not complain too much about picking up 55 pound bags of silver, but.....

Will get to it soon.....

My book is now scheduled by Whitman to be released at the ANA summer show in Denver.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 4/15/2006 7:37:36 PM
Subject: (no subject)

Dear JD:
When I saw a new book on early US gold coins come out I naturally thought about you. That made me wonder why you had not yet sent me the group of electrotype US half cents which you said you would promptly get to after the Baltimore Show. I know how busy you must be but please find them for me.
Continue to thrive, Eric

Wednesday, June 21, 2006 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Group of 1/2 cent electros.**
Date: 06/21/2006 2:54:44 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
On Fathers' Day I looked over my unanswered mail file and there you were. I hope your book matter is out of the way and you can take care of the above promptly. You probably have so many irons in the fire you don't know which to grab. Eric

Dear JD:
On Fathers' Day I looked over my unanswered mail file and there you were. I hope your book matter is out of the way and you can take care of the above promptly. You probably have so many irons in the fire you don't know which to grab. Eric

Wednesday, June 21, 2006 America Online: EricNumis

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **RE: Group of 1/2 cent electros.**
Date: 06/21/2006 3:57:49 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric:

I have too many fires!!!

The book is at the printers, so even though I still find errors, there is nothing I can do about them!

Here's my schedule, so you can see that it still will be a tad longer.....after you see my schedule below, I believe you will understand.....I wrapped up the book this past Monday.....spent Tuesday working at the old house, trying to get everything out.....has been on the market for over a year, so I hope it sells soon!!!!

Monday (June 26) to Colorado Springs for two purposes.....

Coin show and I am teaching a class (they have been bugging me to come out for several years and I decided that I should give back a little, as the coin hobby (business) has been good to me.

My class ends July 6, home on the 7th.....

Leave July 12th on vacation with my two daughters (you have met the "coin" daughter, Paige.....Drew is two years older).

They have never been out of the country so we are going to London, Paris, and Rome.....can't get any more "touristy" that those three!

Back on July 28th.....pack my daughter's stuff in a pod (older one is going to start school in LA in October) and leave around August 6-7 for the ANA in Denver (we are driving her car to LA!!!!!).

Leave Denver August 20th after the ANA and meander to LA in a week or so (they have never seen the Grand Canyon, etc.), so Drew, Paige, and I will arrive there when Drew's apartment is ready (around the first of September).....stay in LA until the Long Beach show is over and then Paige and I will fly home to Memphis (Sept. 20th).

So, as you can see by my "sad tale of woe".....I will be in Memphis for about two weeks this summer.....

I hope you understand, I am not putting you off, I do not have the time right now.....however, once Drew is in school in the fall.....maybe things will slow down a bit!

Anyway, thanks for the help on the book.....

On the book subject.....I talked at length with Ron Landis of the Gallery Mint (was unable to get this in the book.....they could not fit this in!).
He makes his own dies and asked him how he made dentils.....

He said he either punched them with a two-digit punch or engraved them!

I was dumbfounded! I asked him how he engraved them and which method he preferred.....

He said he used a curved tip graver's tool and that it was whimsical.....sometimes he punched them with his two-gang punch (he said it required a very light tap of the hammer) or sometimes he scooped them out of the cold steel. The die need not be heated!

He said he could cut them or punch them with the same speed.....

Thought you would find this info interesting!

Best,

JD

---- Original Message ----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 6/21/2006 2:55:13 PM
Subject: Group of 1/2 cent electros.

Dear JD:
On Fathers' Day I looked over my unanswered mail file and there you were. I hope your book matter is out of the way and you can take care of the above promptly. You probably have so many irons in the fire you don't know which to grab. Eric

Subj: **aha!**
Date: 7/30/2006 12:58:48 AM Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:
CC:

Hi Brad,

See you at the festival of greed in about two weeks, but thought I would let you know about a new discovery!

Close collars were used for half eagles from 1820 ownward! (JR seems consensus as 1824 for the dimes, and I have heard as early as 1820 for the quarters, but the half eagles were struck in close collars from 1820 onward, so they may be the first.....gold, important, etc.

We were looking for the wrong thing, as we associate the rim with close collars!

The difference in look of an 1829 Large Size half eagle and an 1829 Small Size half eagle is NOT the addition of a close collar.....IT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LIPPED DIE!

While doing the "Bass" book on early gold, I discovered the dentils were scooped (or engraved as Ron Landis from the Gallery Mint calls them). Ron said he punches dentils and engraves them. I asked him how he made dentils and he said he used both methods before I even mentioned my "scooped" dentils theory. I asked him which he prefers and he said that he had no preference and he can do them with the same speed.

The following ideas about dies have been rumbling around in my mind for a while, but was finalized during the class I taught on gold die varieties at the ANA Summer Seminars in early July.

On dies for the 1829 Large Size half eagle and prior, the dentils go to the edge of the die and are engraved.....(see the 1820 obverse die on display at the ANA that was once owned by Andy Lustig, who sold it to Don Kagin, who donated it to the ANA). From 1795 to 1819, half eagles were either struck with segmented collars or the edges were added by the Castaing machine and they were struck with open collars.....(Brad, I know your's and my opinion is that segmented collars were used.....others differ). From 1820 onward, half eagles were struck in close collars (they have scoring between the very even, strong reeding, indicating that the reeding was "struck" on the coin and the coin was forced out of the lower die). Until mid 1829, the dentils went all the way to the edge, thus the "rims" are uneven and, in some places, non-existent. I call these dies "No Lip" dies.....

On dies for the 1829 Small Size half eage and later, the dentils are surrounded by a slightly lower lip (a flat area that is machined AFTER the dentils are added, I believe) and are punched with a single punch (each die varies enough that it is very unlikely that a double or tripe dentil gang punch was used). This lip is what makes a very EVEN, HIGH rim on "Lipped" dies with a close collar.

If you think about it, the lower area around a Lipped die is what makes the rim square and tall.....the close collar only forms the outside of the rim.....the top and inside are made by the lip around the dies, which is only very slightly lower than the dentils (the flat area makes the top of the rim, while the vertical area below the dentils makes the inside of the rim). Also, the depth and width varies for this lip, even on later dies. This is why you have coins with wide, flat rims or thin, flat rims or wide, rounded rims or beveled rims.....etc., etc, etc.

Yes, that is a line from the King and I (can't help but put a King of Siam reference in here, as it was the Bass 1804 Plain 4 Proof eagle that helped me to figure this out!). (See below)

This information was discovered too late to include in the book on early gold, as it was discovered after the book went to press (the book will be available at the ANA).....BUT, as noted, the Bass 1804 eagle (thus the line from the King and I.....the 1804 dollar obverse die is a new die that used the old Draped Bust punch and has punched dentils (the reverse appears to be a leftover one with scooped dentils.....want to examine one again to make sure). Anyway.....

There will be an article about the 1804 Plain 4 Proof eagle in the ANA issue of Coin World, where this info is revealed.....AND the 1804 Plain 4 eagle is from LEFTOVER obverse and reverse dies.....I won't spoil it for

you (and the other coin weenies that also are getting this email). However, I will give you a sample:

It is struck in a close collar (200 reeds, unlike any collar? used on earaly eagles from 1795-1804.....these had varying number of reeds, the Crosslet 4 has 126 reeds, I think, either added by a collar or Castaing machine, as noted above). Since the Proof 1804 eagles and dollars were struck in close collars, they should have very even, square rims, right? Nope, the ealge uses No Lip dies, as do half eagles from 1820-1829! Since the dentils go to the edge and there is no lip, there is no square rim like seen on the obverse (and reverse?) of 1804 dollars! The close collar cannot make a wide, square rim unless the die has a lip.

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Subj: **Re: aha!**
Date: 7/30/2006 3:21:41 PM Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric,

Yes.....still have the electro half cent project on the fire.....not too warm, yet, as we leave next Monday (Aug. 7th) driving to Denver.....after the ANA, we are driving to LA (we are taking my older daughter's car to LA so she will have a vehicle for school (she is going to the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandise.....FIDM for short). We will stay in LA (my younger daughter and I) to help Drew move into her apartment and then the Long Beach show follows the second week of September, so we (Paige and I) will not return until September 16 or so.....gone from home for nearly 6 weeks!

We just got back from 16 days in Europe.....I spent a few hours at the British Museum in the study room and saw all the U.S. coins, including Territorials and Colonials.....few surprises.....have written an article about the coins, which I will send after it is finalized.....

Busy getting Drew packed this week (the movers are coming in a week, right before we leave) and getting ready for the ANA.....

The book will be out at the ANA, as noted, and your copy will arrive some time after the ANA (unless you are coming to Denver).

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 7/30/2006 1:32:41 PM
Subject: Re: aha!

Dear JD:
Thank you for the copy of your new data on your dentil stdies you have been devoted to.
I certainly look forward to your book and you are ready to write a second edition before your first is out.
I want to be sure you have read the Neiswinter article in Penny Wise for June 2006. He talks about changing the dots on the perimeter of the reverse of the 1793 Cent S 13 into dentils for a 1794 cent reverse. He and Hoge conclude that a circular punch with 91 dentils on it was used for the conversion. I have a telephone call into Neiswinter to tell him I think he should rethink the matter. Perhaps you should straighten him out.
I presume you have the electro half cent project on your to do list.
Keep the wheels rolling. Eric

Subj: **Group of electro half cents**
Date: 1/21/2007 12:09:09 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
Our museum has opened for about three months and and New Year has arrived. I hope you have thrived since I last heasrd from you..
We were sorry not to be able to include the material we were supposed to receive from you in our counterfeit and fake exhibit but can change it when it should be changed.
Would it be possible for you to have time to visit your boxes to get the group of electros together for us?
Our Museum is told we will have a very large group of visitors here this spring for both the EAC Convention and the Central States Convention. That ought to be extra fun. My best Eric

Subj: **RE: Group of electro half cents**
Date: 1/22/2007 3:16:50 PM Central Standard Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Hi Eric,

As usual, been writing articles and doing PCGS stuff.....leaving tomorrow for a show, but will be in town next week.

I will try and get down to the depository.....

Have read several great articles about the museum and am looking forward to visiting it.....will not be at the St. Louis show in early Feb., as we are leaving for California the week of the show.....

Hope to get up there for the EAC/JRCS show.....if not, will be there in May for CSNS

Best,

JD

John Dannreuther
[redacted]
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

----- Original Message -----
From:
To: [redacted]
Sent: 1/21/2007 12:09:16 PM
Subject: Group of electro half cents

Dear JD:
Our museum has opened for about three months and and New Year has arrived. I hope you have thrived since I last heasrd from you..
We were sorry not to be able to include the material we were supposed to receive from you in our counterfeit and fake exhibit but can change it when it should be changed.
Would it be possible for you to have time to visit your boxes to get the group of electros together for us?
Our Museum is told we will have a very large group of visitors here this spring for both the EAC Convention and the Central States Convention. That ought to be extra fun. My best Eric

Subj: **Half cent electros**
Date: 3/27/2007 1:50:56 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
I assume you are back from Baltimore. We have the EAC conventuion in St. Louis right after the middle of this April. You do not need a reminder about sending the group of Half Cent Electros but I am sending you one anyhow. Please do not delay this any more. Greetings. Eric

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Subj: **Re: Half cent electros**
Date: 3/28/2007 7:59:02 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Will get to the bank before the EAC wingding

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Mar 27, 2007 1:50 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Half cent electros

Dear JD:
I assume you are back from Baltimore. We have the EAC conventuion in St. Louis right after the middle of this April. You do not need a reminder about sending the group of Half Cent Electros but I am sending you one anyhow. Please do not delay this any more. Greetings. Eric

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Subj: **half cents**
Date: 4/7/2007 10:11:15 AM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Hi Eric,

Hope all is well.....

Guess what!!!! I went to bank and went through about a dozen boxes (double row kind, as I have only two lock boxes!).

I have a few more to go through today, but I have found about 10 electro half cents, so far.....

1793, 1796, 1802/0, the rest in the 1840s, although there are two 1852s.....

Will send the list when its complete.

Can either Fedex them to you or bring them up for the EAC show, which I decided to attend at the last minute.....got a table, yesterday.....

Was too late for the dinner, but Tett said there might be a Saturday visit, so told him to include me.

Also, John Kraljevich wants to meet you in person, and he will be riding with us (my daughter Paige and myself) on Wed.....will be at the Hilton late Wednesday night.

Best,

JD

See what's free at AOL.com.

----Original Message----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Apr 10, 2007 5:19 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: half cents

Dear JD:
What you have found in half cent electros is just right. Thank you for finding them. They contain examples of just what I need and I presume you will bring them to EAC rather than send them. I look forward to seeing you and your gang.. Eric

JD

Best,

Will have them at EAC.....looking forward to seeing you.

Dear Eric,

Subj: **Re: half cents**
Date: 4/10/2007 9:42:57 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Subj: **Re: half cents**
Date: 4/10/2007 5:19:43 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear JD:
What you have found in half cent electros is just right. Thank you for finding them. They contain examples of just what I need and I presume you will bring them to EAC rather than send them. I look forward to seeing you and your gang.. Eric

See what's free at AOL.com.

Subj: **half cents**
Date: 4/10/2007 11:55:17 AM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Hi Eric,

Hope this finds you well.

I have the following electros:

1793
1796 Pole
1802/0 New Reverse (I've been told this is a Breen plate example copy - think the original is Tett's)

1840
1841
1844
1845
1849
1852

I also have crude copies (cast?) of 1840 and 1841.

The electros are very high quality.

Advise.....I am leaving today for a show and will not be back until Saturday.

Best,

JD

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 5/1/2007 3:02:34 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Dear Eric,

As usual, it was great to see you, too. I am sorry we were unable to obtain tickets to the dinner, but they were "hotter than July." Paige got to see what "real Bust dollars" look like, however, so I am glad I could bring Dave Perkins and Jim Matthews over to the museum. You have done a wonderful job with the museum and I am proud that some of my electros will be on display.

The easy way to duplicate the Johnson invoices would be to digitally photograph them.....of course, if you send them to me, I will do it personally with my able bodied assistant, Paige..... If you decide that Tom should do it there.....or if you want me to hire someone to do it, I will do that.....

I realize they are delicate, but they need to be copied before they are even more fragile than they are today.

Advise what you think or we can discuss next week at the CSNS show in downtown St. Louie, which I hope you will be able to attend (at least for a day).

Best,

JD

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: May 1, 2007 1:55 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: (no subject)

Dear JD:
Thank you very much for the half cent electros. I hope that you and your daughter enjoyed the EAC Convention here. It is always great to talk to you, particularly about your new findings.

I have a 4 page brochure offering to sell any of a large list of electros at 25c each published in New York in the 1880s and will be glad to send you a photocopy if you wish it. I have already furnished a copy to Ken Bressett who is now writing a research paper on electros.

As to copying the Johnson invoices you mentioned that you knew a very practical way of doing so with little damage risk to the delicate yellow paper. I have about 7 consecutive years filed by customer alphabetically for each year and then each customer by date. I want to keep them in that order. Are you going to obtain an outside person to do this or are you planning to do it yourself? Please give me more detail so we can plan the most practical way to accomplish your goal.
My best Eric

See what's free at AOL.com.

[redacted]
JB
EPN Museum

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 21, 1998

Mr. John Dannreuther
868 Mt. Moriah, Suite 202
Memphis, TN 36117

Dear JD:

I believe we should have been numismatic friends long ago. We have a lot of mutual interests, and after reading many parts of your wonderful book I have come to that conclusion.

First you are too modest. You write a fine book and on the cover the names of Bowers and Travers are featured and yours is omitted. I thank you for the book which I had not seen because grading was featured and I am non-commercial. You are referred to in the book as a "genius," and I will treat you accordingly. Your book won a prize for which I congratulate you. I noticed what you wrote on page 289. Incidentally, if there is a hard cover version, it can find a new home. My own new book is coming your way and it has a very hard cover and hard facts.

For your next edition, I enclose what may be a new item to you on forgeries. It is a Charles Enders, Jr. list of electros for sale.

I suggest you only use circulating counterfeits or counterfeits for describing pieces for circulation. You may use forgeries or reproductions for the later pieces for fraud or amusement.

I notice you use the words "close collar" and then you use the mystery words "open collar" which I need to have explained to me because I have no idea what it was, only some guesses.

Thank you for keeping me up to date on some of the things that are going on.

Thrive,

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 24, 1998

TO: John Dannreuther

FROM: Eric P. Newman

If I had any questions about your book, you asked me to write you.

On page 234 you mention "Bay Area" forgeries of 1835 half cents which you feel are die struck. I wrote up a series of forgeries of colonials in The Numismatist 10 to 15 years ago and they were from the "Bay Area." I concluded they were superb centrifugal dental castings. This forger only did plain edge pieces for obvious reasons. The ANA was spineless in investigating the situation both before and after a court case in Nebraska was finally settled. What do you think? I need further explanation of how you think transfer dies were made from coins.

EPN

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 24, 1998

TO: John Dannreuther

FROM: Eric P. Newman

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EPN

J.D.R.C., Inc.
John Dannreuther Rare Coins, Inc.

August 26-27, 1998

Dear Eric:

How true! It is a shame that we have not become numismatic friends before now. However, until I was made Director of Research for PCGS two years ago, I was a full-time coin dealer and grader. This newly found freedom allowed me the time to write the grading book (I am glad you have found it interesting. I must point out that David Hall is the one who called me a "W.C.N.G." If you know David, you probably know that he occasionally uses hyperbole.) I tried to make it a book that could be enjoyed by novice collectors, advanced collectors, investors, and serious numismatists such as yourself.

I was disappointed that my name was not on the cover, but the covers were printed in advance and Random House thought it would sell better with the well-known names of Dave Bowers and Scott Travers in a prominent position. The first printing of 20,000 has nearly sold out and a second printing of 10,000 is in the works. Maybe I should see if the covers have already been printed for the second printing? (My next work will have my name on the cover – that work is in progress and will be published sometime next year. I will certainly have hard-cover copies made for my second book. I did ask for 500-1000 hardbound grading books but was turned down.)

I cannot, however, take credit for the three chapters about counterfeits. I wrote 11 of the 14 chapters of the grading book but Rick Montgomery wrote the 3 chapters on counterfeits. Bruce Amspacher rewrote these 3 chapters and I edited them and made some changes, so I did have something to do with them. I do like your suggestion of differentiating between counterfeits and forgeries. A second edition with hundreds of additional photos is being discussed and if that comes to fruition, I will incorporate that change in the counterfeit section. I think the word forgeries better describes those coins meant to deceive whereas counterfeit should refer to just contemporary counterfeits.

Now, to attempt to answer your questions – although in no particular order. First I will address the term open collar about which you inquired and which I consider to be a misnomer. All collars are closed collars – even the Peter Droz segmented collar is a closed collar, just in multiple pieces. (Breen attributes the term collar die to you for the close or closed collar. As usual, this is very astute as the close or closed collar is actually a third die.) Breen and others have used the term open collar to refer to the positioning collar used prior to the introduction of the close collar (collar die) in 1836 at the Mint. (Of course, foreign mints used collar dies prior to 1836.) Breen states that "Earlier issues had been struck in an open collar, which positioned the blanks on the rev. die but did not confine them, as this would have flattened edge reeding or lettering." (Breen *Encyclopedia p. 305*). I recall reading (I think it was in the *John Reich Journal*) that there was perhaps an eighth of an inch around the planchet before it was struck. Since the planchet would have been work hardened after lettering or reeding had been imparted by the Castaing machine, it would expand upon striking but not touch the restraining or open collar or, as Breen noted, the edges would have been crushed. The restrike crushed lettered edge Proof half dollars of 1833-35 are but one example of what happens to lettering in a close collar or collar die! (A plain collar die in this case.) Again, technically speaking, these early strikings did **not** have collar dies but probably had what should best be called a positioning or restraining collar. I don't know where the term open collar originated, but I have heard it for years, Breen and others used it, so I "went with the flow." Perhaps I should have called it a positioning or restraining collar to prevent confusion. Just as stellas have been collected for years as part of the regular gold series (they are obviously patterns), some traditions are fairly well entrenched – so I used the term open collar. However, I agree with you. It is a poor term, in fact an oxymoron. Perhaps I will write an article for the PCGS quarterly-issued *Market Report* clarifying this issue. As usual, your comments are very astute! I did notice that under the definition of close(d) collar in the Glossary of the grading book, it is noted that "open and close collars are both closed collars..." Still, it is a confusing term.

As far as Bay Area counterfeits are concerned, I personally feel that these coins are struck fakes. However, I do not necessarily agree with Rick Montgomery that the dies are transfer or impact dies. I feel the dies were prepared by either the spark erosion method or some form of casting (the numerous "pebbles" on these coin's surfaces certainly makes this seem likely). As noted above, Rick Montgomery wrote the three chapters about counterfeits. I did give Rick a call and he replied that because of the doubling seen on several of the half cents and large cents, he felt that the dies had been made by the transfer or impact method. This seems possible and I understand his position also. (He conceded the fact that the dies could be cast or spark erosion – the "bubbly" surface is hard to explain from the impact die method, just as the doubling is hard to explain by casting!) Obviously, more research is needed on these fakes. There are very few times that I disagree with something you have said or written, but I do **not** think the coins themselves are cast. (I believe they are struck because of the repeating depressions and "bubbles" which would not be constant on individually cast pieces.) I do not think I have seen any of the fake colonials you referred to in your letter, obviously they may indeed be cast pieces. Jack Beymer was one of the first individuals to identify these coins 10-15 years ago (the half cents, large cents, Indian cents, etc.), so perhaps he has some information on their origin. I will ask him at the Long Beach show in October and will let you know what he has to say. The reason they are called Bay Area counterfeits is only because they appeared there. They certainly could have been produced elsewhere. (Rick and I both agree, however, that they are struck fakes, just the method of die manufacture is in question.)

I certainly am glad that I now have time to do research and writing. I have two children (10 and 13) and, as stated earlier, I have had to earn a living by being a dealer/grader until now. With my new freedom (I also am in charge of the Daily Price Guide on the internet for Coin-Universe), I am able to do many non-commercial things I have wanted to do for years. Getting paid for doing this is the "enabler" for me to support my family and pursue my first love – writing. (From the length of this letter that is obvious!)

Becoming friends with you is "icing on the cake" for this job. I would love to come to St. Louis sometime (its only a five-hour drive) and "talk" coins with you. Hopefully, someday we can arrange this. Writing letters is informative but face-to-face talks have always been my favorite method of coin research. I have spent countless hours (usually at night after coin shows) talking with such luminaries as Kam Ahwash, Jack Collins, Walter Breen, Jimmy Hayes, David Hall, Bruce Amspacher, etc. I started collecting in the mid-1950s but as a kid with little money, could not travel very far. My father was also a collector and we had a small mail order business in the 1950s mainly advertising in *Numismatic News* classified ads (3 different Indian Head cents for 35 cents, etc.). Of course, there was no *Coin World* until 1960! I did attend a few coin shows in the 1950s including one in Greenville, Mississippi where a 1913 Liberty Head nickel was exhibited (I believe you know a little about these as you handled some of them (all?) from the B.G. Johnson estate). J.V. McDermott, who had carried his example around in his pocket for years (worn to EF or slightly less), sent this rarity by registered mail to Dr. D.C. Montgomery for this exhibition. When I saw the guard – holding some form of automatic weapon – standing next to the 1913 nickel exhibit, I was in awe! This ten-year old, already hooked on coins, was in numismatic heaven! I really wish I could have met Mehl, Raymond, and others but we have no control over our dates of birth! I am sure you have great stories about many of the luminaries about whom I have only read – and heard the stories of Breen and others.

Looking forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,

JD

P.S. I got your 3rd letter today (I had better finish this one and mail it before I get your 4th!). Anyway, I asked Rick Montgomery to provide you with photos of a bogus 1852 Assay Office $10. However, upon quizzing him, he could not remember seeing a $10 dated 1852. I personally have seen dozens of the Franklin hoard 1853 $20 coins but never a 1852 Assay $10 that I questioned. I think I questioned Rick

about this when I was rewriting this chapter and at that time he vaguely remembered a $10 dated 1852 so I left it in the section. The Humbert $20's of 1852 (all known are overdates) do come proof-like and of course there is the superb Proof 1852/1 Garrett specimen which PCGS graded PR65.

P.S. 2 After quizzing Rick a second time on this matter, he thinks you caught us! The paragraph that states "...the 1852 ten-dollar Assay piece is likewise prooflike, and exhibits repeating depressions. The most prominent is a circular depression between the N and I of CALIFORNIA on the reverse." is in error!!! That depression is on some, not all, of the **1853** Assay $20 Franklin hoard coins! Another good catch to be corrected in the 2nd edition! You will be credited! I have already made the change in my corrections copy of the book.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: J. Dannreuther August 31, 1998

From: E. P. Newman

As to the open collar matter in your August 26-27 1998 letter Breen and I agreed that something helped position the blanks and did not confine them. Beyond that we did not have adequately supported ideas. We knew that something was called an open collar by the Mint. I believe there was a mechanism in the form of a 30 to 45 degree arc which was retracted before striking and returned by spring activation after the ejector or sweeper had flicked off the struck coin. The arc served to stop the new blank which was pushed forward over the lower die by a tongue in a groove. All of these elements could have been mechanical, manual or a combination, some automatic and some not. I have struggled with this for years. With steam power Boulton had done all this mechanically since 1788.

The idea of an open collar distant by 1/8th inch from the coin is impossible prior to steam coinage at the U.S. Mint. After steam coinage began the collar was a collar die. Where in the Reich Journal did you read the theory? I hope you can ask someone if it is remembered.

A circular collar die diameter is naturally slightly larger than the planchet diameter.

Your glossary comment that an open and closed collar are both closed should be changed as per my above theory even if you do not completely accept it.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: John Dannreuther September 1, 1998

From: Eric P. Newman

It is not too late to change the cover on the second printing of your book to get your name on it. Insist on it.

It is not too late to have a few copies of the second printing remain unbound and have them put in hard covers. They owe this to you. They are trampling on you if they don't. Add Rick's name also.

You may be a grader but don't get downgraded when you should have been upgraded. Dr. Sheldon should be and is downgraded, not you.

12/10/98

John Dannreuther asked me to find out about Robert C. H. Brock of Philadelphia who was a trustee of the Univ of Penna. I called Harry Forman who I knew would help.

Harry said that Brock had an enormous coin collection and died in 1892 leaving it to the Univ of Penna not to be sold for 100 years. In 1952 Univ of Penna wanted to use the money for Egyptology and began to arrange to sell. They apparently talked to a Philadelphia collector of stamps, coins & autographs by name of Philip H. Ward Jr & said the collection was sold to Mehl. When Ford found out Mehl got them Ford went to Fort Worth & found out U.S. colonials were not there. Apparently Ward was given the right to take some colonials for himself. Ward began selling the colonials privately through dealer Dockstus. Forman bot some from Dockstus and sold hord Baltimore penny, Hd ring shilling, etc to Ford & Stack. (I told Forman that I bot the Somers Island set from Dockstus because someone would not pay what Dockstus asked & Dockstus was angry & sold them to me) Ford tried to find out where Forman was getting the pieces and Forman was loyal to Dockstus & did not tell. Ford knew they were from Brock collection.

Called Dannreuther & learned that Philip H Ward Jr died in 1963, (born 1886) lived in Phila & was a major stamp, coin & autograph collector (Ward Electric Co) retired in 1933. Dannreuther was told by Univ of Penna that Brock died in 1906.

I told JD that I would check date of death of Brock. Perhaps Brock gave collection in 1892 and died in 1906. Called Phil Hapsonality and he will check for me. 215-546-2465 (Library Co of Phila)

Brock sold to J P Morgan some people in 1902

Dannreuther

PCGS

1-800 447 8848

back on Dec 9, 1998
to Memphis

Kayser has Photos does not have inventory

Robert R. C. H. Brock — died 1906

Manufacturer of Wine of Penna

Call Forman

Call Lapsansky

6/24/96

J. Damarenthes - called the Office

901 683 2492

Noon call thurs Dec

THE OFFICIAL® GUIDE TO COIN GRADING AND COUNTERFEIT DETECTION

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To Eric P. Newman
With highest regards
John W. Dannreuther

First Edition

House of Collectibles
The Ballantine Publishing Group • New York

The stars on altered pieces are punched in and many times show nothing but uninterrupted metal, with no lines whatsoever. Other times, circular lines may be present in the altered star.

Overall, look for well-defined die polish and appropriate luster. Sharpness in the letters and digits is not as useful for authentication in the commemorative series as it is for regular-issue coinage, due to the roundness typically found in these features on genuine commemorative coins.

Territorials

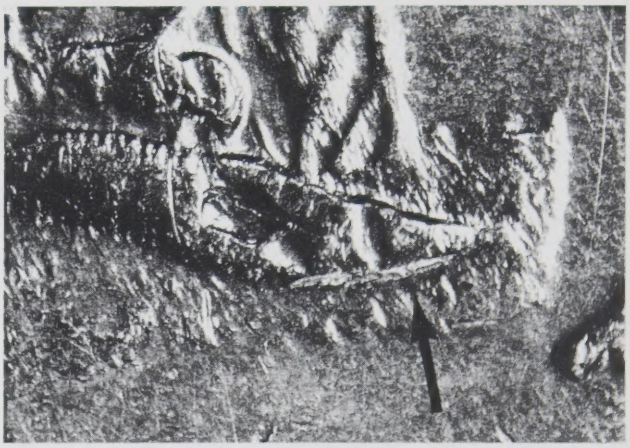
Surprisingly little U.S. territorial gold coinage has been forged. Besides the common replicas of the California fractional gold series, counterfeits are limited primarily to the United States Assay Office of Gold issues of 1852 and 1853. The most common of these is the 1853 Assay twenty-dollar coin.

This counterfeit piece is prooflike in appearance and rounded in its details, and exhibits several depressions that repeat from fake to fake. The genuine Assay issues have sharp details and a great deal of die flow in the fields, and are well-defined pieces.

On the counterfeit, look for a repeating depression on the base of the branch being held by the eagle. This depression, which looks like a bag mark, is a key counterfeit diagnostic. Also, a repeating depression is seen in the field between the legend and the banner on this issue.

The counterfeit version of the 1852 ten-dollar Assay piece is likewise prooflike, and exhibits repeating depressions. The most prominent is a circular depression between the N and I of CALIFORNIA on the reverse.

Counterfeit 1853 United States Assay Office twenty-dollar gold obverse and reverse.



Close-up of counterfeit 1853 United States Assay Office twenty-dollar gold obverse. The arrow points to the depression near the end of the branch.

Close-up of counterfeit 1853 United States Assay Office twenty-dollar gold obverse. The arrow points to the depression in the field between the legend and banner.

Genuine pieces do not possess the prooflike appearance of the counterfeit. Rather, their fields are rough and textured, with considerable die flow. The devices, letters, and digits on the genuine pieces are sharp and well-defined, erupting from the fields and having sharp, angular features.

Other than these two deliberate counterfeits, the rest of the territorial coins found in fake form are common, cheap replicas. These are made of base metal and are detected easily by the presence of a seam along the edge. Also, the weights of these replicas are considerably lower than what they should be.